Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Vol. 32, Issue 8
SEPTEMBER 2024

Street Fighter

Dornoch stars on banner Haskell Day at Monmouth Park

Country Life Breeding Partnership–
ENJOYING SARATOGA SUCCESS

FASIG-TIPTON PHOTO

Continuing a nine-decade-long tradition of offering Maryland-bred yearlings at Fasig-Tipton's Saratoga sale, Country Life on August 5 sold a handsome colt from the first crop of Yaupon for $200,000.

The Yaupon colt was bred by Country Life and our partners in the Make Amends LLC out of the Malibu Moon mare Make Amends, which we purchased for $82,000 at the 2021 Keeneland November sale. We sold her 2022 Maclean's Music colt as a weanling for $140,000 at Fasig-Tipton's Night of the Stars.

Make Amends produced a 2024 filly by Mandaloun and is in foal to Gun Runner's son Cyberknife for 2025.

Reach out to us if you would like to participate in our popular breeding partnerships.

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Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

— Set List —

Dornoch delivers in Monmouth Park's Haskell

The nation's top 3-year-olds went through New Jersey as usual in July and Belmont Stakes winner Dornoch made his claim for the division lead with another Grade 1 win. By Paul Halloran. Page 28

Yearling prep takes on many forms in region

With the fall sales season fast approaching, regional yearlings learn important first steps on the long road to becoming racehorses. By Ali Cetinok. Page 34

Middle East buyers make impact in Mid-Atlantic

Fasig-Tipton's goal of increasing international participation in its sales at Timonium took a big step at the May 2-year-old sale with a number of major buyers from the Middle East taking part. By Joe Clancy. Page 44

Politi carves out place in Maryland

Owner/breeder Joel Politi lives in Ohio, but participates in racing on a national – and regional – scale including a strong group of Maryland-breds. By Vinnie Perrone. Page 52

Retired racehorses deserve recognition

It should be simpler to keep track of Thoroughbreds who pursue competitive careers in other disciplines. By Kirsten Green. Page 58

— Entries —

Post Time 6

The Starting Gate 8

Next Chapters 24
Colonel Sharp

From the Editor 26

— The Paddock —

Maryland newsletter 63

New Jersey newsletter 73

North Carolina newsletter 79

Pennsylvania newsletter 81

South Carolina newsletter 85

Virginia newsletter 87

West Virginia newsletter 89

Steeplechase newsletter 91

— Evening Stables —

In Memorium 61

Classifieds 93

Looking Back 94

Past Time 96

On our cover: Dornoch storms down the stretch en route to winning the Haskell Stakes at Monmouth Park. *Photo by Equi-Photo, Inc.*

Got a Maryland-sired horse in your stable?

Jim McKay Maryland Million Day 2024

LAUREL PARK
OCTOBER 12

Horses by these stallions, who were conceived in Maryland and fully nominated/certified to the Maryland Million program, are eligible to run in Maryland Million stakes races.

Aaron's Way
Admiral Alex
Alliance
Baltimore Bob
Bandbox
Barbados
Biblical
Blofeld
Bourbon Courage
Buffum
Bullsbay
Cage Fighter
Cal Nation
Cherokee's Boy
Cuba
Dance With Ravens
Deputy Storm
Despite the Odds
Divining Rod
Dortmund
Eclipticalspraline
Editorial
E Dubai
Elusive Charlie
Etched
Eternal Star
First Mondays
Fleet Foot
Freedom Child
Friesan Fire
Gandhi
Gators N Bears
Giacomo
Go for Gin
Golden Lad
Great Notion
Greek Sun
Hangover Kid
Heaven's Glory (Jpn)
Holy Boss
Hoppertunity
Hunters Bay
Imagining
Irish War Cry
Kendalls Bear
Ken Doll
Kobe's Back
La Reine's Terms
Lion Hearted
Long River
Louis Quatorze
Madefromlucky
McKendree
Modern Cowboy
Mojave Moon
Mosler
Mr. Shoplifter
Nicanor
No Never No More
Norumbega
Not Abroad
Not For Love
Oratory
Orientate
Outflanker
Pass You Bye Bye
Petionville
Plan
Port Vila (Fr)
Private Scandal
Que Man
Rainbow Heir
Redeemed
Regal American
Rock Slide
Same Day Delivery
Scipion
Seville (Ger)
Showing Up
Standing Room Only
Street Magician
Super Ninety Nine
Trial Prep
Tritap
Two Punch
Unbridled Mate
Uncle Lino
Unfettered

The above list shows nominated stallions with horses of racing age. Stallion must have been nominated for the specific year the horse was conceived. Some stallions listed here may not be eligible for every year.

PRE-ENTRY DEADLINE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

$150K Maryland Million Classic* Three-year-olds & up, 1⅛ mi. No Lasix.

$125K Maryland Million Turf* Three-year-olds & up, 1⅛ mi., turf. No Lasix.

$125K Maryland Million Ladies* Fillies & mares, 3-year-olds & up, 1⅛ mi., turf. No Lasix.

$100K Maryland Million Distaff* Fillies & mares, 3-year-olds & up, 7 fur. No Lasix.

$100K Maryland Million Sprint* 3-year-olds & up, 6 fur. No Lasix.

$100K Maryland Million Lassie* Fillies, 2-year-olds, 6 fur. No Lasix.

$100K Maryland Million Nursery* Two-year-olds, 6 fur. No Lasix.

$100K Maryland Million Turf Sprint* 3-year-olds & up, 5½ fur., turf. No Lasix.

$50K Maryland Million and/or Registered Maryland-Bred Turf Starter Handicap 3-year-olds & up, who have started for a claiming price of $16,000 or less since October 15, 2023. 1 1/16 mi., turf. First preference to Maryland Million-certified horses.

$50K Maryland Million and/or Registered Maryland-Bred Turf Distaff Starter Handicap Fillies & mares, 3-year-olds & up, who have started for a claiming price of $16,000 or less since October 15, 2023. 1 1/16 mi., turf. First preference to Maryland Million-certified horses.

$40K Maryland Million and/or Registered Maryland-Bred Starter Handicap 3-year-olds & up, who have started for a claiming price of $12,500 or less since October 15, 2023. 7 fur. First preference to Maryland Million-certified horses.

$40K Maryland Million and/or Registered Maryland-Bred Distaff Starter Handicap Fillies and mares, 3-year-olds & up, who have started for a claiming price of $12,500 or less since October 15, 2023. 7 fur. First preference to Maryland Million-certified horses.

*For horses certified to Maryland Million Ltd. Registered Maryland-breds that are not Maryland Million-sired will be able to pre-enter and race ONLY if the race has less than eight (8) Maryland Million-sired entries. SEE PRE-ENTRY BOOK FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS.

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MARYLAND-BRED/MARYLAND-SIRED STAKES SCHEDULE

Through December 2024

December 7

$100,000 MD JUVENILE 2YO, 7 furlongs

$100,000 MD JUVENILE FILLY CHAMPIONSHIP
2YO, Fillies, 7 furlongs

December 21

$75,000 HOWARD & SONDRA BENDER MEMORIAL
3YO & Up, 7 furlongs

$75,000 POLITELY 3YO & Up, Fillies and Mares, 6 furlongs

Pre-Entry Deadline
SEPTEMBER 29

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

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321 Main St., Reisterstown, MD 21136
(410) 252-2100 x116
Fax (888) 616-9797
MidAtlanticTB.com
Facebook.com/Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred

Director of publications: Barrie B. Reightler
breightler@marylandthoroughbred.com

Editor: Joe Clancy
editor@marylandthoroughbred.com
410-392-5867

Associate editor: Cindy Deubler
cdeubler@marylandthoroughbred.com

Editorial assistant: Lydia Williams
lwilliams@marylandthoroughbred.com

Communications manager: Ali Çetinok
acetinok@marylandthoroughbred.com

Contributors:
Sean Clancy sean@marylandthoroughbred.com
Lexi Danielson lexi@marylandthoroughbred.com
Tom Law tom@marylandthoroughbred.com

Circulation & member services: Emily Stakem
emily@marylandthoroughbred.com

National advertising: Ken Ward
Ken@TheWardGroupLLC.com

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Post Time

SEA HORSES. Saratoga's steeplechase schedule was nearly washed out this summer as rain played havoc with even the most organized of trainers and fans. The field for the Jonathan Kiser Memorial – led by Zarak the Brave (Fr) and Hold Hard (Ire) – even made it to the paddock July 31 before a deluge forced the cancelation.

Tod Marks

3

Say It Again

"I got this, it's interesting. This is what I was made to do."
Barrie Reightler's horse Somethingandchange, a reformed racehorse, reacting to a day out with foxhounds in August
Editor's Note: We know horses don't talk but he was thinking it.

"Tag, you're it."
Uptowncharlybrown Stud's Bob Hutt, returning a phone call from editor Joe Clancy

"I'm the trainer. My job is to overthink."
Kate Dalton, who ran Abaan in two jump races at Saratoga

"We usually don't cross the bridge unless we have a horse that we think will be competitive."
New Jersey-based trainer Jorge Duarte Jr., about racing in New York

"The horses would have to get a lot more expensive at Timonium for that to happen."
Northview Stallion Station's David Wade, on why he gives away homemade ice cream at Saratoga but not Timonium

Names of the Month

Honestly. Three Diamonds Farm's Maryland-bred 2-year-old filly, who started at Saratoga and Laurel Park this summer, is out of No More Excuses.

Sports Editor. A homebred for Country Roads Ltd., the 5-year-old gelding by Editorial recorded his second allowance win of the year in July at Delaware Park.

Spotty Showers. Mike and Penny Lauer's 4-year-old filly, entered at Colonial Downs in August, is by Get Stormy.

Settling Storm. Sticking with the weather theme, this 4-year-old filly is out of Storm Tide. The Robert "Shel" Evans homebred won at Colonial Downs in July.

THE RACING BIZ

The Independent Voice for Mid-Atlantic Racing and Breeding

Wendell Fong's long route to the finish line: It was a long, twisting road for 8-year-old gelding Wendell Fong, but it's ending up in the right place, with the retirement he's earned, writes Teresa Genaro.

At first glance, Kerri Raven's barn punching above its weight: Globetrotting trainer Kerri Raven has a small operation, a hands-on approach, and A Primera Vista, a horse she loves who is undefeated at her Delaware Park base, writes Frank Vespe.

This Juice B Loose shows "a lot of class": In a baby race that featured the siblings to several prominent Charles Town runners, This Juice B Loose fended off all challengers to win, reports Ted Black.

Ben Curtis bringing a world of experience to Colonial Downs: Irish-born jockey Ben Curtis has raced all over the world. This summer he added Colonial Downs to his list. Nick Hahn reports.

Book'em Danno holds spot as top Midlantic-Bred: With a Grade 1 win and two other stakes scores this year, New Jersey-bred Book'em Danno was the leader in the Top Midlantic-bred Poll through the end of July.

Overnight Pow Wow posts Bishop stunner: Black reports on Overnight Pow Wow's stunning victory in the Sylvia Bishop Memorial for 3-year-old fillies at Charles Town in July. She knocked off 1-9 favorite and stablemate Direct the Cat, who was riding a six-race win streak with an average margin of victory of nearly 10 lengths.

MARYLAND JOCKEY CLUB
AT LAUREL PARK

CAPITOL MEET

SEPTEMBER 2024 STAKES

SAT / SEP 14	SUN / SEP 22	SAT / SEP 28
3 STAKES RACES WITH **$300,000** IN PURSES	2 STAKES RACES WITH **$200,000** IN PURSES	3 STAKES RACES WITH **$400,000** IN PURSES
$100,000 GUARANTEED THE POLYNESIAN STAKES *Three Year Olds & Upward // One Mile*	$100,000 GUARANTEED THE TWIXT STAKES *Fillies & Mares - Three Year Olds & Upward* *One Mile*	$150,000 GUARANTEED THE LAUREL FUTURITY *Two Year Olds // One & One Sixteenth Mile // Turf*
$100,000 GUARANTEED THE SENSIBLE LADY TURF DASH *Fillies & Mares - Three Year Olds & Upward* *Six Furlongs // Turf*	$100,000 GUARANTEED THE WEATHER VANE STAKES *Fillies - Three Year Olds // Six Furlongs*	$150,000 GUARANTEED THE SELIMA STAKES *Fillies - Two Year Olds // One & One Sixteenth Mile // Turf*
$100,000 GUARANTEED THE ALL ALONG STAKES *Fillies & Mares - Three Year Olds & Upward* *One & One Eighth Mile // Turf*		$100,000 GUARANTEED THE JAPAN TURF CUP *Three Year Olds & Upward // One & One Half Mile // Turf*

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Milestones

Won:

His first graded stakes as a sire – Pennsylvania-based Peace and Justice when Dontlookbackatall captured the Grade 3 Caress Stakes at Saratoga Race Course July 25. Bred by A1A Racing, Dontlookbackatall won her third consecutive stakes for West Point Thoroughbreds, Scarlet Oak Racing and Titletown Racing Stables.

COGLIANESE PHOTOS

Trained by Christophe Clement, the 4-year-old filly improved to 6-for-13 lifetime with $487,290. She is one of four stakes winners for Peace and Justice, who stands at Blackstone Farm for $5,000. A son of War Front, Peace and Justice entered stud in 2017 and is 14th on the Mid-Atlantic sires list with over $1.2 million in progeny earnings this year. From five crops to race, he has sired 63 winners (through Aug. 14) from 88 starters and 140 foals of racing age for total progeny earnings of $5.9 million.

Announced:

By Virginia's Colonial Downs racetrack, the creation of a four-day March 2025 meeting featuring a revamped Virginia Derby. Traditionally a turf stakes, the Virginia Derby will move to the dirt and will be a 50-point race on the Road to the Kentucky Derby, giving the winner a guaranteed spot in the 151st Kentucky Derby-G1 May 3 at Churchill Downs. Dates for the Colonial Downs spring meet are contingent on approval of the Virginia Racing Commission.

Won:

A Telly award for excellence in video and television across all screens, a commercial created for the Virginia Equine Alliance by Virginia-based BES Studios. A 60-second TV commercial titled "Virginia Wins With Horses" submitted in the annual competition received a silver in the Travel and Tourism Regional TV category – the highest achievement awarded by the Telly awards panel, a diverse body of more than 200 executives from television networks, production companies, global agencies, immersive content studios, and streaming platforms around the world. The VEA, whose mission is to sustain, promote and expand the horse breeding and horse racing opportunities in the Commonwealth of Virginia, initiated a multi-media campaign. BES Studios acquired hours of authentic footage to select from via day-long video shoots at four key locations – Colonial Downs Racetrack in New Kent, Shenandoah Downs Racetrack in Woodstock, Eagle Point Farm in Ashland and Audley Farm Equine in Berryville. Footage highlighted the state's economy, tourism, jobs, careers and agriculture. The VEA then forged a strategic partnership with Virginia Broadcast Solutions and the Virginia Association of Broadcasters to develop a comprehensive advertising plan which aimed to highlight the economic and social impacts of the Virginia horse industry. The campaign included TV, radio, digital, streaming and social media with different versions of advertisements often running simultaneously on the various platforms. In the eight-month period from October 2023 through May 2024, the campaign produced 90,146,579 total impressions.

Published:

By the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority, its 2024 Second Quarter Metrics Report which provides an in-depth analysis of key performance indicators related to the safety and integrity of Thoroughbred racing in the United States. The second quarter (April 1-June 30) continued the downward trajectory of the rate of racing-related equine fatalities in the industry. Since the

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2023 National leader by # of wins

FREE SAILIN
MSW of $267,514
$20K purchase

PROPER ATTIRE
12 wins, $395,310
$26K purchase

FOREWARNED
MSW of $1,074,658
$40K purchase

DIVINE FASHION
15 wins, $233,943
$20K purchase

FT MIDLANTIC FALL YEARLINGS
OCTOBER 1 – TIMONIUM

ACCELERATE filly o/o FASTEST SPIN
First foal out of winning half to G3P, from a solid graded family KY-bred

ACCELERATE colt o/o SKY GIVEN
Out of a $129,431 winner MD-bred

BLOFELD filly o/o INDIAN SUGAR
Second foal and half to $121,339 winner. MD-bred

BLOFELD colt o/o KIOWA
Half to two winners. Dam a half to MGS producer. PA-bred

BOLT D'ORO filly o/o MISSY RULES
Half to TWO SP earners of over $300K MD-bred

BY MY STANDARDS colt o/o MUSIC TOWN
Half to four winners, out of a near $100K winner WV-bred

CREATIVE CAUSE colt o/o HELLUVA HUNCH
From family of G1 HARDEST CORE and champion GILDED TIME WV-bred

DIVINING ROD filly o/o FIFTEEN ROYALS
First foal out of a winning ($108,709) half to MAYLA ($305,132, G3-placed). MD-bred

DIVINING ROD colt o/o KATS IN CHARGE
From the family of 2x horse of the year AFFIRMED MD-bred

DIVINING ROD colt o/o MISS NONDESCRIPT
First foal out of 2YO SW. MD-bred

GOLDEN YEARS filly o/o FROZEN TUNDRA
Out of SP winner. WV-bred

GREAT NOTION colt o/o MY LITTLE JOSIE
Half to six winners including two 6-figure earners MD-bred

HIGHER POWER colt o/o PLAYFUL LOVE
Half to $182,976-earner. MD-bred

KNOWN AGENDA filly o/o WAR VALUE MD-bred
Family of G3 BUFFUM ($261,550), STORMY WEST ($367,153)

MODERNIST colt o/o HURRYUPANDCOMEBACK
Out of a half to WHITE FLAG (SW, GSP, $534,278). MD-bred

MSHAWISH colt o/o CONQUEST MS CURLIN
Half to SP Xcellent Start ($113,111). WV-bred

OMAHA BEACH colt o/o ASSUME
FIrst foal out of near $100K winner. MD-bred

PEACE AND JUSTICE filly o/o DOUKAS
Half to two winners; family of G3 MASS MARKET. PA-bred

ROCK YOUR WORLD colt o/o E DUBAI'S HUMOR
Half to 2 winners out of SP winner of $117,455. MD-bred

THE FACTOR filly o/o CULOTTE
Half to 5 winners out of MSW of $140,301. WV-bred

TIZ THE LAW colt o/o ROCK ME MAMA
Out of a $190,154-earner. PA-bred

UNCLE LINO colt o/o LEVEL WITH ME
Full to 2 juvenile winners and half to 3 other winners, including $233,179 earner MD-bred

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Milestones

implementation of the Anti-Doping and Medication Control Program May 22, 2023, which represents the point in time when HISA became fully operational, the fatality rate has declined for four consecutive quarters, including an approximate 49-percent decrease year over year in the second quarter of 2024. Racetracks operating under HISA's rules and running races in the second quarter reported 0.76 racing-related equine fatalities per 1,000 starts, compared to 1.48 racing-related equine fatalities per 1,000 starts in the second quarter of 2023. The report also sets forth the racing-related fatalities by state and individual racetrack, including racetracks outside of HISA's purview in Louisiana, Texas and West Virginia. Beginning with HISA's 2024 Annual Metrics Report, to be published during the first quarter of 2025, HISA will provide training-related fatalities for the full year and each quarter of 2024 on an aggregate and per-track basis. For more, see hisaus.org/news.

Topped:

Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's June 2-year-old sale at Timonium, Md., a Vekoma colt consigned by Mason Springs and purchased by Gracie Bloodstock for $150,000. The New Jersey-bred breezed a furlong in :10 and is out of a Elusively, a half-sister to stakes winner Colonel Sharp from the family of Grade 1 winners Sharp Cat and Royal Anthem. A Munnings filly out of stakes-placed Roadrunner's Honor, topped the fillies at $85,000. She was purchased by Patti Miller of EQB from Crane Thoroughbred Services. Held for the second consecutive year June 25, the sale produced gross sales of $1,418,500 from 48 sold. The average price was $29,552 and the median was $22,500.

JIM RAFTERY / TURFOTOS

BENOIT

COGILIANESE PHTOGRAPHY

The 2024 inductees to the Maryland Thoroughbred Hall of Fame are Alma North, Richard's Kid and Shine Again.

Named:

To the Maryland Thoroughbred Hall of Fame, star racehorses Alma North, Richard's Kid and Shine Again in voting conducted this summer. The three were honored at Timonium Aug. 23. Alma North, a daughter of Northern Dancer born in 1968, was named 1971 Maryland-bred Horse of the Year after a 3-year-old season in which she made 27 starts and won or placed 19 times – 12 in stakes. Bred by the J.I.B. Farms, a partnership between Dr. Robert A. Leonard and Stanley Bender, she raced for Eugene Mori's East Acres after being at purchased by Saratoga as a yearling for $15,000. Trained by Frank J. Zitto and a stakes winner on dirt and turf, Alma North made 78 starts in less than four years, won 23, was second 14 times and third in another 18. Her 15 career stakes included four graded in 1973, topped by the Grade 1 Matchmaker at Atlantic City while equaling the track record. Back-to-back winner of the Grade 1 Pacific Classic at Del Mar, Richard's Kid started his career on the East Coast for breeder Robert Meyerhoff and trainer Dickie Small, for whom the big bay was named. A distance-loving specialist, Richard's Kid was sold privately to Arnold Zetcher in the spring of 2009 and turned over to Bob Baffert, who guided him through the middle of his 47-start career to not only the Pacific Classic wins, but also victories in the Grade 1 Goodwood, Grade

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Milestones

2 San Antonio and twice in the Cougar II Handicap (once a Grade 3). After finishing his 2010 season with consecutive Grade 1 triumphs, he was sent to Dubai where he raced for more than a year with trainer Satish Seemar. Upon his return to the states in the spring of 2012 he set a track record in his first start back at Hollywood Park, and two starts later set a track record at Del Mar. Richard's Kid was sold twice more during his career, to Zabeel Racing in 2010 and to Dave Kenney, Triple B Farms, Westside Rentals.com, et al, midway through the 2012 season, when he was turned over to trainer Doug O'Neill. The last of his dozen wins came in his third Cougar II Handicap-G3 victory in 2013. He retired to stud having won eight stakes, six graded, placed in 10 others, set two track records, earned $2,482,259, and was named Maryland-bred Horse of the Year and champion older male in 2009 and 2010. He is the third member of the Hall of Fame bred by Meyerhoff, joining Broad Brush and Concern. A Maryland-bred champion over three consecutive years, including Horse of the Year in 2003, Allaire duPont's fourth-generation homebred Shine Again was one of the most consistent mares to come out of Maryland. When she retired, not only had she finished in the top three in 31 of 34 starts, she ranked as the ninth-leading Maryland-bred money-earner of all time, and the second-leading female behind Safely Kept. Trained by Allen Jerkens, the daughter of Wild Again won back-to-back runnings of Saratoga's Ballerina Handicap-G1 and missed a third win by a nose. She came equally close in taking three consecutive runnings of the First Flight Handicap-G2. Named Maryland-bred champion sprinter twice and champion older mare three times, Shine Again won or placed in 20 stakes, 18 graded. She retired after her 6-year-old season in 2003 with earnings of $1,271,840.

Appointed:

As the executive secretary of the Virginia Racing Commission, Waqas Ahmed, in August. He is the former deputy executive director of the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission. In this role, Ahmed carried out several strategic initiatives, including the launch and implementation of sports wagering. Prior to that, Ahmed served as the director of pari-mutuel wagering and compliance, and oversaw the launch of several tracks, historical horse racing facilities as well as advance deposit account wagering providers.

Named:

As the August member of the month by the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association, Maryland owner/breeder Ellen Charles. Racing as Hillwood Stable, she has long been a standard-bearer for equine excellence in the state with horses such as Phlash Phelps, Cordmaker, Bandbox, Hello Beautiful and others. This year, 4-year-old multiple graded stakes winner Post Time has taken Charles to racing's highest level with a second in the June 8 Metropolitan Handicap-G1 and a third in the Aug. 3 Whitney Stakes-G1 at Saratoga Race Course. Bred in Maryland by Brooke, Tom and Chris Bowman and Milton Higgins III, Post Time has won eight of 12 career starts and earned $937,910 through Aug. 15.

Announced:

The winners of its 2023 state breeders of the year awards, TOBA. Among the honorees at the 39th annual TOBA National Awards Sept. 6 at the Thoroughbred Club of America are Maryland Breeder of the Year Dance Forth Farm (Tom and Chris Bowman), New Jersey Breeder of the Year Bright View Farm (Christine Connelly) and Greg Kilka, North Carolina Breeder of the Year Art Bauer, Pennsylania Breeder of the Year Forgotten Land Investments and Black Diamond Equine (Christian Black), South Carolina Breeder of the Year (Franklin Smith Jr.) and Virginia Breeder of the Year Ann Mudge Backer. In addition, the Robert Clay Conservation Award will be presented to Pennsylvania's Castle Rock Farm, owned by Peter Giangiulio and Barbara Geraghty. The award recognizes a member of the Thoroughbred community who has made an outstanding contribution to preserving land for equine use.

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Pennsylvania-bred yearling leads region at Saratoga

A Good Magic colt bred in Pennsylvania by Uptowncharlybrown Stud topped a small group of Mid-Atlantic-bred yearlings at the Fasig-Tipton select sale Aug. 5-6 at Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Consigned by Taylor Made Sales Agency as Hip 95 on the first night, the colt went to Live Oak Plantation on a $500,000 bid, just under the sale's average of $533,506 and above the $425,000 median. The colt is a half-brother to Grade 3 winner Dixie Serenade (a daughter of Pennsylvania stallion and the breeder's namesake Uptowncharlybrown) and two other winners. Their dam Moonlight Serenade, a daughter of Malibu Moon, did not race but has become an important piece of the Uptowncharlybrown Stud broodmare band as part of an original group of seven mares for the 2013 breeding season.

FASIG-TIPTON PHOTO

"She was a gift to me from [breeders] John and Susan Moore," said Bob Hutt, founder of Uptowncharlybrown Stud, of Moonlight Serenade. "We had four former claimers and three who never raced, all of them first-time mares. It took about seven years before anybody would ever breed to him."

Uptowncharlybrown's stallion career rose from that humble beginning to a spot among the regional leaders and $10.2 million (and counting) in progeny earnings. Moonlight Serenade has produced three winners, two by Uptowncharlybrown and led by Grade 3 winner Dixie Serenade. In 2022, Hutt convinced his partners to breed the mare to Kentucky stallion Good Magic and the resulting colt sold for $270,000 as a short yearling at Fasig-Tipton's February sale in Kentucky. Marshall Taylor's pinhooking partnership Castleton Way/Hard Five made the purchase and earmarked the colt for Saratoga.

"He told me he'd been watching him since he was a weanling [with C & S Thoroughbreds] and called him one of the most beautiful horses he'd ever seen," Hutt said. "We were thrilled and I wished him every success."

Taylor kept Hutt informed of the colt's progress over the next several months, and Hutt was again thrilled to see the colt sell for $500,000 at Saratoga. Florida's Live Oak, which races nationally and regionally mainly with trainers Mark Casse and Mike Trombetta, spent $2.9 million on six yearlings at Saratoga.

"The horse is going to get the opportunity to be all he can be and we're very, very proud and very, very excited," said Hutt. "It's a first-class organization."

Hutt, through his Fantasy Lane Stable partnership, raced Uptowncharlybrown with his friend

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Alan Seewald as trainer. The son of Limehouse won his debut by 9 lengths at Tampa Bay Downs in late December 2009, then ran away with the Pasco Stakes in early January 2010. Third in the Sam Davis-G3 and fifth in the Tampa Bay Derby-G3, Uptowncharlybrown was training for the Lexington-G3 when Seewald died five days before the race. Uptowncharlybrown finished third in the Lexington and 12th in the Belmont Stakes-G1 (following a disqualification from fifth after losing a weight pad from his saddle on the backstretch) but never won again. Hutt made him a stallion anyway.

"I was told that he had no chance of being a commercial stallion but I believed in Alan; he said he was the best of his generation," Hutt said. "It was one in a million."

Northview Stallion Station sold a Maryland-bred Gun Runner colt out of stakes winner Nasty for $400,000. Bred by Sycamore Hall Farm, the colt was purchased by Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners, Bridlewood Farm and Robert LaPenta. Eclipse campaigned Maryland-bred stars Sharing (also a Saratoga purchase) and Aloha West. Sycamore Hall paid $420,000 for Nasty as a broodmare prospect at Keeneland November in 2021.

The colt was part of Northview's third consecutive consignment at Saratoga's select sale. In addition to the Maryland-bred, Northview sold a Tapit filly, a pinhook by Sycamore Hall, to Case Clay Thoroughbred Management for $500,000.

Two other Maryland-breds sold at Saratoga's select sale – a $200,000 Yaupon colt to Havertz Stables and a $185,000 Practical Joke colt to Hideyuki Mori. The Yaupon colt was sold by Bluegrass Thoroughbred Services on behalf of Country Life Farm and the Make Amends broodmare partnership. C & S Thoroughbreds sold the Practical Joke colt, after purchasing him as a weanling for $90,000 at Keeneland November. Barak Farm bred the half-brother to three winners.

Pennsylvania breeders Greg and Caroline Bentley sold a Not This Time colt out of their mare Judy In Disguise (GB) for $300,000. Consigned by Paramount Sales, Hip 70 is a half-brother to Undercover Kitty, who won three races including the 2022 Crowd Pleaser Stakes for the Bentleys' Runnymoore Racing. CJ Stables made the Saratoga purchase. Judy In Disguise won five races and placed in two graded stakes before being purchased by the Bentleys for $50,000 at Keeneland January in 2018. All three of her foals to race are winners.

One other Pennsylvania-bred was sold – a $250,000 Justify colt to BBA Ireland via C & S. Bred by Blackstone Farm, the colt is a half-brother to four winners including stakes winner Yulong Warrior.

Agent Steve Young paid $275,000 for a Virginia-bred colt by Candy Ride (Arg) consigned by Darby Dan Farm for breeder Morgan's Ford Farm. The bay colt from the Mineshaft mare Un Blessed is a half-brother to Grade 2 winner Chess Chief and a full-brother to recent winner Candy Doll. Taylor Made Sales sold a Virginia-bred Charlatan filly on behalf of breeder Ann Mudge Backer and Smitten Farm for $150,000. Tom McCrocklin made the purchase of the bay filly out of stakes-placed Compensate.

– Joe Clancy

Go Figure

86.2 Million dollars of estimated impact between 2017 and 2023 of the Virginia-Certified Residency Program for Thoroughbreds on the state's economy.

1 Grade 1 winner for a regional stallion (through Aug. 15) this year. Carson's Run, a son of Maryland stallion Cupid, captured the Saratoga Derby at Saratoga Aug. 11 for West Point Thoroughbreds, Steven Bouchey and trainer Christophe Clement. Cupid stands at Atlanta Hall Farm in Monkton.

4 Consecutive wins in the Irish War Cry Handicap for He'spuregold after he captured the 2024 edition at Monmouth Park. Bred by John Bowers Jr. and owned by Roseland Farm, the 6-year-old scored by a neck over One Time Willard in the New Jersey-bred stakes July 7. Trained by Kelly Breen, the Vancouver (Aus) gelding improved to 8-for-26 lifetime.

Becky Davis Agent

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FUELED BY The Mill

Trenary finds her niche at Sycamore Hall

By Julia Reedy

An invisible string always tied Emma Trenary to where she is today, working as farm manager at Sycamore Hall, the Golden family's private breeding farm just down the road from the more public-facing part of the Thoroughbred operation Northview Stallion Station in Chesapeake City, Md.

Growing up in Ellicott City, Md., Trenary began riding horses around the age of 6 and took an affinity to off-the-track Thoroughbreds early on.

"A lot of the horses that I grew up riding were off-the-track Thoroughbreds," Trenary said. "Being so young, I was kind of all gung-ho about riding the new ones, and I was thrown on all the crazy ones. They would say, 'Hey, this one needs a ride, go see what it's like.' So, after I got more experience riding, that's sort of what I was doing. Working with the Thoroughbreds at such a young age, I really fell in love with 'em."

Her passion for riding took her to the equitation show circuit throughout middle school and high school, and then eventually to Sweet Briar College in Virginia. In her first year competing for Sweet Briar, the equitation team placed 10th at nationals.

It was also during her time at Sweet Briar that she began to seriously consider a career in breeding. She had done internship and student programs breeding horses – mostly using artificial insemination to breed Warmbloods and Arabians – but wanted more hands-on experience than the AI programs could provide.

Around Christmas time her senior year, she and her father Wendell Rakosky attended an open house at Northview to see if there were any job openings.

"I was trying to find a farm who was hiring and to start at when I graduated," said Trenary, 33. "Louis Merryman was the manager over at Northview and I got to meet him, we talked a little bit, and it just so happened that he had a position that was available."

Of course, Trenary still had a year of school left. But that didn't squander her interest in Northview.

"It was about a couple of months later that we sort of regrouped and I came up for an interview at Northview, and he ended up hiring me over there as the broodmare operations coordinator," Trenary said. "I worked directly with the broodmare manager and the office. I did lots of communications with clients, herd health, and just got more hands-on exposure than what I already had."

Trenary worked as broodmare operations coordinator from 2012-15 and felt she was ready to grow in her career and take on more responsibility.

Enter David Wade, long the Sycamore Hall manager who also became the general manager at Northview as Merryman moved on to Heritage Stallions and now his Anchor and Hope Farm. Funnily enough, Wade had managed a farm Trenary rode at during her childhood, which they would soon realize after working together.

Wade had an available position for assistant manager at Sycamore Hall, and Trenary was up for the job.

"In 2015 he hired me over here, and then I started working directly with him and I sort of took over the reins of the day-to-day management of everything and reported back to him about what was going on," Trenary said. "He taught me a lot in the process because I was still learning a whole lot. He was there if I had any questions, really guided me through a lot of problems I was having or questions that I had. So I was assistant manager here from 2015 to 2021, and then he ended up hiring me as manager. Now I sort of manage all aspects of Sycamore."

As farm manager, Trenary is booked and busy from the time she wakes up on the farm until the time she goes to bed – there's the time she has at 6:30 a.m., just before the rest of the team arrives, to go through what's on the schedule for that day: Who's seeing the blacksmith? Any veterinarian appointments?

- 7 a.m. bring the horses in and feed them. Evaluate each one. Any bumps, bruises, or lameness that needs to be addressed? Tend to accordingly.
- 8:30 a.m. turnout. If a horse needs to stay in – with one of the

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aforementioned ailments – meet with the blacksmith or veterinarian.

• Late morning into the afternon. Depends on the time of year. Yearling prep – that means exercise. Afterward, bathing and grooming. Try to get everything done before lunch.

• 1 p.m. Finish said prep with the yearlings.

• Mid-afternoon. Bandage changes, layups who need to be worked on the free walker, the works. Update the books. Plan for the next day.

• 3:30 p.m., another round of feeding.

• 4 p.m. send the team home. Depending on the time of the year, stay up late to watch the mares.

And that might be a slow day for Trenary, who married her husband Josh at the farm June 1.

The process might seem intense – what with the constant and meticulous care and attention that breeding Thoroughbreds undoubtedly requires – but for Trenary, what matters most is being there every step of the way.

"The most rewarding part of my job is definitely having the opportunity to see the horses develop," she said. "I get to see them as a little dot on the ultrasound screen, and then I get to deliver them, I get to develop them, watch them grow, and then watch them go on to be successful racehorses. Knowing that I was able to be a part of that is so rewarding to me."

The biggest rewards come during yearling season as "gangly" youngsters take their first steps toward becoming future racehorses in the sales ring.

"It's a really quick development that they go through. It's so fascinating to see how they develop over that eight-week period of prep," Trenary said. "They go from these – like I said – gangly yearlings that come in from the field and they're sunburnt and they're just out there being horses doing what they need to do.

"And when we bring 'em in and I get them prepped for these sales and they leave and their coats look fantastic. They're well-muscled, they're fit, they just look like racehorses. And to me that's really rewarding."

Trenary's passion and work ethic aren't lost on those around her – and you can count Wade in the mix.

"Since we promoted her to manager of the farm, she's just taken off and she's been thriving ever since," he said. "She doesn't miss anything on the horses. She's somebody that anybody who hires her in the future is going to be lucky to have. I can't say enough good things about her."

When she's not working, Trenary and her husband tend a big garden, raise chickens, are training a new

puppy, hunting, and bowfishing for invasive snakehead catfish.

"I do a little homesteading," she said. "We try to be as self-sufficient as we can so that takes up a lot of our time. We're big hunters. We're pretty busy around here when we're not working."

Trenary hopes to continue the upward trajectory of her career and Sycamore Hall, starting with building a stronger foundation of broodmares.

"The vision I see for us is becoming more of a prominent breeder in Maryland," Trenary said. "Because we are working so hard to develop a really solid band of mares, and it's really starting to show over the last couple of years, being able to take mares to the Night of the Stars Sale at Fasig-Tipton. We took mares there last year, we've been sending yearlings up to Saratoga for the past three years. We're really starting to see the benefit of the work we've done to try to build up our herd and have a strong, solid group of mares. It's not just the stallions. You need to have really solid mares in your program to be successful, and we have definitely seen the reward from that over the past few years." ■

— Mid-Atlantic-bred Stakes Winners —

June 12 – August 7

Maryland-bred

ALLA BREVE, ch.f., 2020, Mendelssohn—Split It, by Curlin. B-Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds; O-Runnymoore Racing; T-Michael Matz. $75,000 Jameela S, Laurel, July 14.

FULMINEO, b.c., 2021, Bolt d'Oro—Starr of Quality, by First Dude. B-Country Life Farm & Starr of Quality; O-Starlight Racing & Mark Grier; T-Arnaud Delacour. $125,000 Boston S, Colonial, July 13.

MALIBU BEAUTY, b.m., 2018, Buffum—Slow and Steady, by Malibu Moon. B/O-ZWP Stable & Non Stop Stable; T-Gary Capuano. $100,000 Caesar's Wish S, Laurel, Aug. 4.

MISS HARRIETT, gr./ro.f., 2021, Blofeld—Tejano Sea, by Sea of Secrets. B-David Baxter; O-Narrow Leaf Farm; T-Brandon McFarlane. $100,000 Miss Disco S, Laurel, July 21.

PLAY HARDER, b.c., 2021, Outwork—Miss Manatee, by Smarty Jones. B-Maria Haire; O-Rising Sun Racing Stables; T-Claudio Gonzalez. $75,000 Star de Naskra S, Laurel, June 29.

SHE'S MY NIECE, b.f., 2021, Hard Spun—Anydayismyday, by Afleet Alex. B-Glenangus Farm; O-Kane Kachur & Sharyn Houle; T-Jared Brown. $50,000 Chantilly S, Assiniboia, June 24.

WHENIGETTOHEAVEN, b.g., 2019, Street Magician—Heaven Knows What, by Holy Bull. B-R. Larry Johnson; O-Ken Ramsey; T-Nolan Ramsey. $75,000 Ben's Cat S, Laurel, July 14.

New Jersey-bred

BOOK'EM DANNO, dk.b./br.g., 2021, Bucchero—Adorabella, by Ghostzapper. B-Gregory Kilka & Bright View Farm; O-Atlantic Six Racing; T-Derek Ryan. $100,000 Jersey Shore S, Monmouth, July 19.

HE'SPUREGOLD, b.g., 2018, Vancouver (Aus)—Smart N Classy, by Smart Strike. B-John Bowers Jr.; O-Roseland Farm Stable (Bowers); T-Kelly Breen. $85,000 Irish War Cry H, Monmouth, July 7.

MIA'S CRUSADE, b.m., 2019, Greenpointcrusader—Mini Moneigh, by Mo Mon. B-Dianne Boyken; O-Prancing Horse Farm; T-Chuck Spina. $85,000 Jersey Girl H, Monmouth, July 6.

Pennsylvania-bred

DONTLOOKBACKATALL, dk.b./br.f., 2020, Peace and Justice—Celtic Arch, by Arch. B-A1A Racing; O-West Point Thoroughbreds, Scarlet Oak Racing & Titletown Racing Stables; T-Christophe Clement. $100,000 Power by Far S, Parx, June 24; $200,000 Caress S-G3, Saratoga, July 25.

GREAVETTE, b.f., 2021 Astern (Aus)—Convertible, by Forestry. B-Heart Hill Farms; O-Upland Flats Racing; T-James Bentley Begg. $100,000 Malvern Rose S, Presque Isle, July 8.

ROSIE'S ALIBI, b.f., 2020, Justify—Essential Rose, by Bernardini. B-Blackstone Farm; O-MyRacehorse; T-Mike Trombetta. $100,000 Princess of Sylmar S, Presque Isle, July 29.

TREVESSO, gr./ro.c., 2021, Kitten's Joy—Setubal, by The Factor. B-Gregory & Caroline Bentley; O-Runnymoore Racing; T-Cathal Lynch. $100,000 Crowd Pleaser S, Parx, June 24.

TWILIGHT DANCER, ch.g., 2021, Tapiture—Moonlight Basin, by Eurosilver. B/O-Warrior's Reward; T-Tim Girten. $100,000 Hard Spun S, Presque Isle, July 22.

Virginia-bred

DETERMINED KINGDOM, b.g., 2019, Animal Kingdom—Filia, by Fastnet Rock. B-Audley Farm Equine; O-Determined Stables & Kingdom Bloodstock; T-Phil Schoenthal. $125,000 Punch Line S, Colonial, July 20.

MYSTIC SEAPORT, b.f., 2020, Midshipman—Sketch Book, by Stormy Atlantic. B-Daybreak Stables.; O-Madison Avenue Racing Stable & Jagger.; T-Jamie Ness. $125,000 Tyson Gilpin/Glenn Petty S, Colonial, July 20.

PASSION PLAY, b.g., 2016, Hold Me Back—Stylish Affair, by Not For Love. B-Mr. & Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin III; O-Reiley McDonald; T-Mary Eppler. $125,000 Edward P. Evans S, Colonial, July 20.

TUFANI, gr./ro.f., 2020, Distorted Humor—Windhoek, by Mineshaft. B-Chance Farm & Distorted Humor Syndicate; O-Susan Moulton; T-Michael Stidham. $125,000 Brookmeade S, Colonial, July 20.

WINFINITY, gr./ro.f., 2022, Not This Time—Winter, by Awesome Again. B-Ann Mudge Backer & Smitten Farm; O-Dream Big Racing; T-John Ortiz. $150,000 Keswick S, Colonial, Aug. 3.

West Virginia-bred

DUNCAN IDAHO, dk.b./br.c., 2020, Fiber Sonde—Holy Pow Wow, by Indian Charlie. B-John McKee; O-David Raim; T-Jeff Runco. $75,000 It's Only Money S, Charles Town, June 15.

JUBAWITHATWIST, gr./ro.g., 2021, Juba—Romantic Cork, by Denis of Cork. B-John A. Casey; O-KP Racing Stables; T-Kristy Petty. $75,000 Robert G. Leavitt S, Charles Town, July 20.

OVERNIGHT POW WOW, gr./ro.f., 2021, Fiber Sonde—Holy Pow Wow, by Indian Charlie. B-John McKee; O-Beau Ridge Farm; T-Cynthia McKee. $75,000 Sylvia Bishop Memorial S, Charles Town, July 27.

— Next Chapters —

BY MAGGIE KIMMITT

Colonel Sharp

LEXI DANIELSON

In December 2017, Dan Eubanks headed to the Timonium sales pavilion with a single-minded purpose. His short list for Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's horses of racing age sale was precisely that. There was just one name on it: Colonel Sharp.

It's not hard to understand what piqued Eubanks' interest. The 4-year-old gelding was already the winner of three races and he'd finished third in Monmouth Park's Jersey Shore Stakes-G3 in 2016 for trainer Todd Beattie. Bred in Kentucky by Susan Casner, he was by Colonel John out of the Cherokee Run mare Extra Sharp. Extra Sharp's dam, Sharp Cat, won 15 races, captured multiple graded stakes and earned $2,032,575.

Sharp Cat was a phenom for owner The Thoroughbred Corporation (of Point Given fame) and trainer D. Wayne Lukas, crisscrossing the country and inking upper-case black type along the way. She won three graded stakes as a 2-year-old in 1996, and captured three Grade 1 stakes the following year while finishing second to Ajina in the Breeders' Cup Distaff-G1 before closing that season with a walkover in the Grade 2 Bayakoa at Hollywood Park. Back for four starts as a 4-year-old in 1998, Sharp Cat went undefeated, including Grade 1 scores in the Ruffian and the Beldame. Retired to the breeding shed, she sold for $3.1 million to Darley while in foal to Gone West at Keeneland November in 2003. She passed away in 2008 after foaling a colt by A.P. Indy.

Her grandson sold for $11,000 as a yearling in 2014, won his first two starts as a 2-year-old and added another win at 3 before going to Timonium.

Eubanks has vivid memories of his first encounter with Colonel Sharp.

"I'll never forget the first time I saw him. I asked the consignor, Crane Thoroughbreds, to bring him out for inspection," Eubanks said. "I looked him in the eye as he stood tall and proud. He looked right through mine, and I was speechless. After a few moments, I uttered one word – 'Wow.' I had to have him. The bidding was a bit energetic, but I didn't waver. I had no idea the joy this purchase was going to bring me."

The hammer fell at $36,000, and Eubanks signed the ticket in the name of his Rising Sun Racing Stables. He sent his new acquisition to trainer Hugh McMahon at Laurel Park. In every subsequent conversation, McMahon assured Eubanks that "We have a really good one here."

"It didn't take long to find out how good," Eubanks said.

Colonel Sharp made his first start for Eubanks Jan. 28, 2018, finishing second in an optional claimer at Laurel Park. Their first win together came two starts later, again at Laurel Park. Third in stakes company at Presque Isle Downs and Mountaineer Park, he returned to Maryland and gave Eubanks his first stakes win as an owner in the Maryland Coalition at Timonium.

"What a great day that was, especially at Timonium where I've had so much fun over the years since I was a child," Eubanks said. "This was the first time I had a horse of this caliber, and it was an awesome ride."

Colonel Sharp won another allowance at Laurel and then the Dave's Friend Stakes to end his 2018 campaign with five wins, two seconds and two thirds with $235,490 earned in 12 starts.

Colonel Sharp began 2019 in graded company, with dismal finishes in Aqueduct's Toboggan-G3 and Laurel's General George-G3. Same with the King T. Leatherbury Stakes that April. Back in the allowance ranks in May, he regained his form with a win, a second and a third through August.

"Midway through the year we removed a chip from his knee," Eubanks said. "Although he came back in 2020, he wasn't as competitive. I retired him as my lifetime leading money earner and only stakes winner."

Headed to Eubanks' Lothian, Md., farm, Colonel Sharp brought a record of 36-9-4-6 and $376,384 in earnings. Though Eubanks was approached by several people when word spread that Colonel Sharp was retiring, selling him was never a consideration.

"I knew there was no way I was letting this guy go," he said. "Once I was able to start riding him, I was in awe of how well he moved and how powerful he was. It's been almost four years since he came to the farm, and he lets you know that he is The Colonel. He's managed to dump me a couple times and pretty much shredded my right shoulder. But I don't mind; I just hang on a little tighter now and hope for the best as I ride 'The Crazy Train.' "

Now 11, Colonel Sharp lives on the farm in Lothian, Md., with Eubanks' second-highest earner, 8-year-old Ziggy Mon.

"Ziggy Mon is one of my favorites of all time. He has always had the coolest personality. Named Ambush to Zigzag when I purchased him at the 2019 January OBS Winter Mixed Sale, I immediately sent him to Red Oak Farm in Ocala. It was eight degrees back home and I couldn't see myself sending him up to the bitter weather in Maryland."

> "I knew there was no way I was letting this guy go."
>
> *– Dan Eubanks after Colonel Sharp retired from the track*

Eubanks returned to Ocala in March to check on Ziggy Mon, who had been gelded in the interim. While there he also attended a Reggae Rise Up concert, and the first performer on stage was Ziggy Marley.

"So Ziggy Mon was soon his official name. He was definitely well-named to go along with his personality as he acted like a stoner kid and still does. He would lie in his stall sound asleep until someone went in to wake him up, even on race days. I knew exactly what I had in Ziggy – he was pure speed and boy did he love to run. Always on the front end, and it was always a hold-your-breath moment coming down to the finish line."

Like Colonel Sharp, Ziggy Mon produced – winning seven of 34 starts and earning $259,521. In the last race of 2021, he stumbled out of the gate and emerged with a small crack in a sesamoid. After proper rest and turnout, Eubanks noticed the gelding tearing around the field and "being his old self."

"We started to ride him, not in an attempt to bring him back to the races, but to be a nice pleasure horse. After about 60 days of that he became a handful, and every time he was ridden alongside Colonel Sharp, it was like we were off to the races."

He made a comeback in 2023 and placed twice, but wasn't as quick as he was and retired back to the farm.

"Colonel Sharp is the boss no matter what," Eubanks said. "But he and Ziggy Mon hold a mutual respect for each other and are enjoying their retirement." ■

— From the editor —

BY JOE CLANCY

Near-misses on biggest stages matter for region

Almost. Almost. Almost. Almost.

Four times, Mid-Atlantic-bred racehorses found themselves on the verge of breakthroughs in iconic stakes this spring and summer.

First, Post Time rallied from fifth to finish second in the historic Metropolitan Handicap-G1 at Saratoga Race Course June 8. He beat everybody but National Treasure, who thrived at the 1-mile distance and ran off with a wire-to-wire score in the $1 million race. First run in 1891, the Met Mile counts Equipoise, Stymie, Tom Fool, Native Dancer, Kelso and Forego among its former winners. The last regional-bred win came in 2017 when Pennsylvania-bred Mor Spirit triumphed at Belmont Park.

Two races later, Mindframe roared to the front and looked poised to gallop away with the region's first Belmont Stakes-G1 since Virginia-bred Colonial Affair in 1993. Mindframe couldn't wrest total control from Dornoch, and settled for second – a half-length behind the winner and a length ahead of Sierra Leone. The Belmont needs no introduction, but its history goes back to 1867.

The July 20 rematch in Monmouth Park's Haskell Stakes-G1 looked eerily similar as Dornoch led and Mindframe cruised alongside while wide on the final turn. The dark bay took a half-length lead in mid-stretch, but Dornoch again answered the call and prevailed by 1¼ lengths. While not as old as its New York brethren, the Haskell matters – dating to 1968 and

hosting winners such as Skip Away, Holy Bull, Point Given, Serena's Song, Rachel Alexandra and American Pharoah. Maryland-bred Restless Con, who won in 1990, is the most recent regional-bred victor.

Two weeks after the Haskell, it was Post Time's turn again as he lined up for the Whitney Stakes-G1 at Saratoga Aug. 3. National Treasure was back, headlining a field of 10 in the long-important summer stop for older horses. Going 1⅛ miles, Post Time rallied from seventh to briefly threaten behind runaway leader Arthur's Ride in the stretch before getting caught for the place. He finished third, beaten a neck for second, in the second Grade 1 start of his life doing something he'd never done. Kelso won the Whitney three times. So did Discovery. New Hall of Famer Gun Runner came through in 2017. Easy Goer, Personal Ensign, Lady's Secret, Alydar, Dr. Fager and War Admiral dot the list of past winners. Post Time was trying to give the region two Whitneys in four years, after Maryland-bred Knicks Go scored in 2021.

Post Time and Mindframe aren't making anyone think about those legends on the honor rolls of those races – they didn't even win – but man did they feel good. Racing is nothing without hope and horses such as Post Time and Mindframe provide hope – to breeders, owners, trainers, fans, state-breeding associations, local track owners, everybody. Bred in Maryland, Mindframe and Post Time actually raced for the entire region when they took their shots at racing's highest level.

Larry Johnson, who lives in Virginia but has long supported the Maryland racing and breeding programs, bred Mindframe. Raised on Johnson's farm, the son of Constitution sold for $600,000 at Keeneland September in 2022 and joined the high-flying Repole Stable/St. Elias Stables team with trainer Todd Pletcher. Unraced at 2, Mindframe won twice this spring and leaped right to those two major stops. It would be like playing for the Phillies out of high school. I'm no pedigree student, but looking at the string of names at the bottom of Mindframe's pedigree should give everyone hope – Walk of Stars . . . Star Kell . . . Special Kell . . . Ran's Chick. Johnson bought that fourth dam for $2,400. She and her daughters changed the region's racing history.

Across the aisle, Post Time held his own among the best older horses in the country. Bred by Tom and Chris Bowman, their son Brooke and the Bowmans' late friend Milton Higgins III, the son of Frosted followed a more traditional path for a Maryland-bred. He sold for $85,000 at Timonium, went to Cary Frommer in South Carolina and was purchased privately by Ellen Charles' Hillwood Stable. The gray son of Brooke Bowman's Fairbanks mare Vielsalm won his first four and is undefeated in seven starts in his home state. Charles and trainer Brittany Russell thought bigger and have tested their horse beyond Laurel and Pimlico. He won the Carter-G2 at Aqueduct in April and has placed in three consecutive graded stakes in New York since. Like Mindframe, Post Time packs more than results in his tack trunk. Higgins bought his third dam Satin Lilly for $4,000 and there are branches of that family all over the region.

The lesson in all this is hope. Carry it forward. ■

Below, Post Time just got beat for second place money in the Grade 1 Whitney at Saratoga.

COGLIANESE PHOTOGRAPHY/ANNA

Big Punch

DORNOCH ADDS HASKELL TO GROWING LIST OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Story by Paul Halloran ■ *Photographs by Equi-Photo, Inc.*

It's not as if co-owner Larry Connolly was anticipating any trouble on his first visit to Monmouth Park, but he brought a four-legged street fighter with him just in case.

The tough guy in question is Dornoch, an equine version of John L. Sullivan, one who seemingly enjoys mixing it up as much as winning.

Dornoch had already shown a proclivity to take a punch and respond with a flurry entering the 57th Haskell Stakes-G1 at the New Jersey track July 20. As a 2-year-old, the full-brother of 2023 Kentucky Derby-G1 winner Mage was passed by the talented Sierra Leone inside the eighth pole in the Remsen Stakes-G2 at Aqueduct, only to re-rally up the rail for the win.

In the Belmont Stakes-G1 at Saratoga June 8, Dornoch took over the lead turning for home, was headed by Mindframe at the stretch call and again showed another gear, taking off for the wire and withstanding a furious rally from the erratic Mindframe.

"He loves the fight," said trainer Danny Gargan, who called Dornoch the best horse he has ever trained two months before the horse ran a race. "I don't give up on him, because we have so much faith that he's going to dig back in."

If anyone still questioned Dornoch's resiliency after the Remsen and Belmont, his Haskell performance provided what should be a final answer.

On a banner day for racing in New Jersey, with another record handle and the most fans since American Pharoah came to Oceanport with a Triple Crown in tow nine years ago, Dornoch proved that not only could he take a punch, he could take two.

Breaking from the same inside position that had been his undoing in the Kentucky Derby – no different from virtually every horse who draws the rail at Churchill Downs on the first Saturday in May – Luis Saez took Dornoch to the lead, mitigating any disadvantage the post might have. Timberlake, the Champagne-G1 winner as a 2-year-old who had won the Rebel-G2 and finished a fading fourth in the Arkansas Derby-G1, was intent on contesting the pace and ran even with Dornoch into the first turn.

> "The Haskell was a little more nerve-wracking. To get passed by two different horses and still win the race, especially a race of that caliber, we're super proud."
>
> *– Dornoch's co-owner Larry Connolly*

Saez saved ground and took a half-length lead onto the backstretch through a quarter-mile in :23.32 and a half in a moderate :48.08. Mindframe stumbled at the gate, but Irad Ortiz Jr. had him within 2 lengths of the frontrunner heading down the backstretch. As they entered the far turn, Flavien Prat took his best shot with Timberlake, just outside of Dornoch, while Ortiz made a confident wide move on Mindframe.

Just as Dornoch repelled the bid of Timberlake, Mindframe struck the front at the stretch call and, if you used Ortiz's body language as an indicator, looked as if he was on his way to victory, perhaps even an easy one. Dornoch had other ideas, re-breaking on the inside and spurting away for a 1¼-length win. Maryland-bred Mindframe stayed for second with Timberlake 5 lengths back in third. The winner covered 1⅛ miles in 1:50.31

Oops, he did it again.

"The Haskell was a little more nerve-wracking," said Connolly. "To get passed by two different horses and still win the race, especially a race of that caliber, we're super proud."

Track announcer Matt Dinerman, calling his first Haskell, took some incoming from the social media cognoscenti for sounding as if Mindframe were going to win, but Gargan had zero issue with it.

"Everybody wants to be hard on the announcer, but this horse will put you in a predicament where he looks beat," Gargan said. "If you watch the race, you might think Mindframe is going to win by 5 [lengths]. But I know when a horse gets to him he is going to switch leads and he has another gear. When he switched leads, he took back off."

Dinerman, who has drawn positive reviews in his first season on the Monmouth mic, was caught a little off-guard by all the Fred Capossela wannabes.

"I'm my own worst critic," said Dinerman, who in the last year has taken over the booth at Oaklawn Park and Monmouth. "Everybody has a right to their own opinion. I watch how riders ride horses and Irad looked like he was ready to make a winning move."

When horses make a move like he did, they probably win more than 90 percent of the time. When they lose, it is likely because they ran into a really tough customer, which is exactly what Dornoch is.

"It was super impressive that he held off those challenges and prevailed," said Connolly, a 1979 graduate of Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va., who has been a long-time supporter of the college since. He served on the board of trustees from 2015-22 and the J. Lawrence Connolly Center for Entrepreneurship and the J. Lawrence Connolly Endowment for the University's Shepherd Program for the Interdisciplinary Study of Poverty and Human Capability were named in his honor in recognition of his generosity.

Connolly went to the track in his youth growing up in Westchester County, N.Y., but did not get seriously involved

Top: Trainer Danny Gargan entertains the eventual Haskell winner prior to the race. Bottom: A crowded Haskell winner's circle included (from left) Keith Mason, Larry Connolly, Randy Hill, Luis Saez hoisting the trophy, Jayson Werth and Gargan.

"Your eyes are always drawn to a two-turn horse and he looked like a two-turn horse. I believed the stallion could be a nice stallion."

– Bloodstock agent Conor Foley, on Dornoch as a yearling

in racing until a friend took him to Cheltenham in England in the late 1990s. A year after selling his audit and accounting consulting firm, he went to Saratoga for the 2013 Travers and one morning on the backstretch his good friend from Atlanta, Keith Mason, told him he was going to buy into the Donegal Racing Syndicate.

"That might be something I want to do," Connolly said.

Two years later, they were in the Travers winner's circle with Keen Ice, who pulled off a shocker in defeating Triple Crown winner American Pharoah. Easy game, right?

"That was an unbelievable moment," Connolly said. "I was hooked for life after that. That was my first year in the syndicate and that was beginner's luck. I had a sense of the importance of it and the difficulty, but I didn't fully appreciate it."

Connolly, who was in on 2020 Kentucky Derby winner Authentic with the Starlight Racing syndicate, formed West Paces Racing in 2019 with Mason and a few other friends from Cherokee Town and Country Club, on West Paces Ferry Road in Atlanta. He tried to be as honest and transparent as possible with their first group of investors.

"I told them it's a very tough business," he said. "Hopefully, we will buy eight to 10 a year and one or two will be partially interesting. Most likely, the syndicate will lose money, but every four, five, six years we might get a live one and have an interesting experience."

The "live one" that is Dornoch was picked out at the 2022 Keeneland September yearling sale by Conor Foley of Oracle, the bloodstock agent for West Paces. They paid $325,000, which Foley thought was a fair deal.

"I thought he would cost more," Foley said of the son of Good Magic, then an up-and-coming sire whose first mating with the dam Puca in 2019 resulted in 2023 Kentucky Derby winner Mage. "Your eyes are always drawn to a two-turn horse and he looked like a two-turn horse. I believed the stallion could be a nice stallion."

Foley had bought Puca as a yearling for Donegal in 2013 and followed her career, in which she was Grade 2-placed and won the Steve Pini Memorial Stakes at Suffolk Downs in her penultimate start. (The runner-up in that race, Queen Caroline, is the dam of Forte, champion 2-year-old of 2022 and the morning line favorite for the 2023 Derby before getting scratched.)

Fortunately for Connolly and the Dornoch ownership group, Mage's Derby win came eight months after they bought his full-brother. "I don't think we're going to be buying any more Good Magics," Connolly said. "They're all budget-dependent. We get outbid a lot. Every now and then we get one we really like.'

An ownership group was formed that includes West Paces, former Major League Baseball All-Star and World Series champion Jayson Werth's Two Eight Racing, Garden State lifer Vito Cucci's Belmar Racing and Randy Hill's R.A. Hill Stable, which subsequently sold part of its share to Mark Pine's Pine Racing Stables.

Dornoch ran second in his first two starts as a 2-year-old, including the Sapling Stakes at Monmouth, before breaking his maiden at Keeneland and outdueling Sierra Leone in the Remsen. Gargan chose the Fountain of Youth-G2 for his 3-year-old debut and he delivered an easier-than-it-looked win as the 1-5 favorite. Having earned enough points to get in the Derby, they tried rating him in the Blue Grass-G1 at Keeneland, a tactic that did not work and he ran fourth.

Dornoch's Derby chances effectively evaporated a week before the race when he drew the rail. He broke 13th in the field of 20, got in trouble twice and finished 10th in a classic draw-a-line-through-it performance. That's what his connections thought and some bet accordingly in the Belmont five weeks later, their faith worth a $37.40 mutuel.

"We never gave up on the horse," Connolly said. "He had valid excuses. A lot of the owners bet big on the Belmont and were rewarded."

Despite that win, Dornoch was only the co-second choice of the bettors in the Haskell, going off at 3-1, along with Timberlake, behind odds-on favorite Mindframe. This time the win ticket was worth a more moderate $8.80 but, more importantly, it moved Dornoch to the top of the 3-year-old male division as summer headed toward autumn.

Eclipse Award winner Idiomatic (right) digs in late to hold off Soul of an Angel in the Molly Pitcher.

Stakes Card

Haskell Day also featured 2023 champion older dirt female Idiomatic winning the Molly Pitcher Stakes-G3 by a head over Soul of an Angel in a pedestrian 1:44.53 for 1 1/16 miles. A gate-to-wire winner, Idiomatic put up fractions of :25.57, :50.27 and 1:13.91 in winning for the 11th time in 15 starts.

Tapit Trice, who was fifth in last year's Haskell and hadn't run since a third in the Travers, looked like a new horse in the Grade 3 Monmouth Cup Stakes, winning by 5¼ lengths.

Turf action saw Beaute Cachee (Fr), coming in off a seventh in the Just a Game-G1 on Belmont Stakes Eve, run back to the form that saw her win the Jenny Wiley-G1 at Keeneland, going gate to wire in the Grade 3 Matchmaker Stakes and prompting Frankie Dettori to treat the Monmouth crowd to his famous flying dismount. Get Smokin held on for a nose win in a three-way photo with Grand Sonata and Tawny Port in the $624,000 United Nations-G2, while Nothing Better won the listed Wolf Hill Stakes.

Mindframe, bred by longtime Mid-Atlantic owner/breeder Larry Johnson, placed in his second Grade 1 of the year while making just his fourth lifetime start. The son of Constitution and the Street Sense mare Walk of Stars sold for $600,000 as a Keeneland September yearling and joined trainer Todd Pletcher for Repole Stable and St. Elias Stables. The dark bay won his debut by 13¾ lengths in March, aired in an allowance on the Kentucky Derby undercard and settled for second behind Dornoch while racing greenly in the Belmont and the Haskell. In late July, the colt was sidelined by bone bruising and taken out of training with the hope of returning late in 2024 or in 2025.

Shore Things

The announced attendance of 38,976 was the largest crowd since 60,983 packed the place to watch American Pharoah win the 2015 Haskell. The total handle of $21,748,352 eclipsed the record set last year, $21,359,642. Those numbers brought a smile to the face of Monmouth CEO Dennis Drazin.

"It was a wonderful day," Drazin said. "The Dornoch people were thrilled to be here and it was nice to see some stars came out [Werth brought his former Phillies teammate Chase Utley]."

Dinerman, who calls the races with his booth window open, said the crowd was so loud that he went to the first aid office to get some cotton balls to put in his ears so he could hear himself talk.

"What struck me was how many young people there were," said the 32-year-old Dinerman. "There was an energetic atmosphere and people were celebrating what the Haskell is all about."

There has been plenty to celebrate at Monmouth this year, other highlights including a non-Haskell Day record attendance of 28,976 on Father's Day. Drazin attributed some of it to the new partnership with NYRA Bets and resulting increased TV exposure on Fox Sports. "When we took over [in 2012] the state was losing $17.5 million a year. Now we're turning a profit," he said. ■

Summer School

FALL YEARLING SALES PUT BREEDERS, CONSIGNORS TO WORK

Story by Ali Çetinok ■ *Photographs by Barrie B. Reightler*

As summer heats up in *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* country, breeders prepare yearlings for the next big step in their lives – the sales ring at Fasig-Tipton Mildantic in early October or at Keeneland or Fasig-Tipton Kentucky.

This is where the future of racing shifts gears, and breeders and their advisors are at the forefront, transforming raw potential into polished prospects to move along to trainers. The work is essential, much like a kindergarten teacher guiding a classroom of eager but unruly children, each full of promise but needing discipline, structure and careful guidance.

Just as a young student undergoes a series of crafted steps to ensure readiness for school – developing basic skills, learning routines, and socializing with peers – so too does a young horse go through a thoughtful regimen to prepare for an auction. Both processes are designed to bring out the best, nurturing potential and setting horses (and children) on paths toward success. As the yearlings are groomed and trained, they transform much like kids stepping into the classroom,

"Our horses have a good base because most of them were foaled here and have been handled since birth. So, at 90 days, they're ahead of the game. We introduce them to the walker gradually..."
– Dark Hollow Farm's John Foster

with the hopes of making a lasting impression and achieving greatness in their respective worlds.

Imagine a child, wide-eyed and filled with excitement and anxiety. Parents and teachers introduce the child to classroom routines, fostering social skills and instilling a sense of independence. Hopefully, the child steps confidently into a new chapter of his or her life, poised to absorb lessons and thrive in a new environment. Similarly, breeders and trainers invest time and effort into refining a horse's physical and mental condition, ensuring they display optimal health, grace and potential.

Preparing yearlings blends art and science. For breeders, the months before a yearling sale are critical – young horses full of potential yet still unrefined begin to transform. People become caretakers and educators, instilling the foundational skills horses need to succeed in racing.

Early steps are introductions to daily routines such as grooming, leading and standing patiently. The tasks seem simple, but are building blocks for more complex training.

The process mixes patience and consistency. Yearlings learn to trust their handlers, respond to cues and navigate new environments. The balance allows young horses to retain their spirit while guiding them toward the focused discipline required of a racehorse. Like educators, breeders celebrate the small victories – a yearling calmly accepting a bit for the first time or mastering the art of walking in a straight line. Early months are crucial. Breeders understand that the habits and attitudes formed now will stick with horses throughout their lives. The yearlings learn to channel their energy, to listen and respond and to move with the grace and power that will define them as athletes.

The work brings satisfaction. Breeders and others who prep young horses take pride in watching yearlings grow and mature, knowing that careful guidance will play a significant role. The task requires knowledge, experience and a deep understanding of the animal and the sport. And just as a teacher takes pride in seeing a student excel, these people find joy in watching yearlings thrive, knowing they've laid the foundation for what could be a promising racing career.

In the end, preparing Thoroughbred yearlings is more than just a job – it's a craft for the people who do it. With expert hands and patient hearts, they shape the future of racing, one young Thoroughbred at a time. And like good teachers who never forget the students they helped along the way, breeders carry with them the satisfaction of knowing they played a crucial role in the journey.

The Dark Hollow Way

David and JoAnn Hayden, and their team at their Dark Hollow Farm in Upperco, Md., long ago established a reputation for producing quality racehorses, stakes winners, Maryland-bred champions and even national Hall of Famer Safely Kept. Dark Hollow sends horses to sales in Maryland and Kentucky, and to trainers in the region and beyond. Known for an exacting approach, Dark Hollow prepares yearlings that consistently catch the eye of top buyers.

Led by farm manager John Foster, staffers introduce young horses to the routines they'll need much later. The horses are taught to walk in straight lines, stand calmly and respond to handlers with poise – foundational skills crucial to the sales ring and the racetrack.

Foster has honed a careful approach to preparing yearlings, ensuring each horse reaches its full potential. The process focuses on conditioning and cautious handling to produce well-rounded and sales-ready yearlings. The timeline expands to include time on a free walker to help build and maintain fitness, improve muscle tone and get horses accustomed to regular, controlled exercise.

"Early on, we focus on hand-walking them and getting them used to the walker," Foster said. "Our horses have a good base because most of them were foaled here and have been handled since birth. So, at 90 days, they're ahead of the game. We introduce them to the walker gradually, starting with hand-walking in the walker for a week or two until they're comfortable. We'll then start trotting them, increasing the

Yearling fillies head to the free walker at Dark Hollow Farm under the direction of John Foster. Proof of their work shows up in ribbons earned at the Maryland Horse Breeders Association's annual yearling show.

time gradually. We don't push them too hard – maximum trotting is about four minutes each way."

As the conditioning continues, the focus shifts toward fine-tuning each horse's physical condition and behavior, ensuring they are fit and mentally prepared for the sale.

"We try not to burn them out, mixing up their activities with some round-pen work, lunging or walking outside. As we get closer to the sale, we do more hand-walking and standing in different places to simulate the sale environment," Foster said. "As we get closer to the sale, usually about two months out, we start adding more detailed work, like surcingle and bit training. We try to expose them to as much as possible to ease their transition to the next stage – whether that's training for 2-year-old sales or end-user racing. We also keep a close eye on their weight and condition, aiming to have them peak just before the sale. You don't want them peaking too early or too

In the hands of Carly Mekulski , who started with Becky Davis when she was 14 and became a full-time employee after graduating from the University of Delaware last spring, a filly gets her first walking lesson with a chifney bit.

"Every horse for me is a puzzle. I want to figure it out."
– Becky Davis

late. It's a balance between having them fit but still showing a bit of that youthful baby fat."

The routine has been a cornerstone of Dark Hollow's success, establishing it as one of the most successful operations in the region. By focusing on comprehensive physical conditioning, Dark Hollow ensures that each yearling not only looks its best but also possesses the calm, confident demeanor necessary for the high-stress environment of public sales. The results speak for themselves in the sales ring, where Dark Hollow's yearlings consistently command top prices and go on to achieve remarkable success on the racetrack. Recent graduates include a $100,000 Gift Box filly at Timonium last year and three six-figure yearlings in 2022.

Becky Davis goes over the complicated turnout chart with Moises Leanna, who manages the barn plus the mowing and maintenance at Roland Farm.

Life in Davis Land

Sales consignor and experienced Maryland horsewoman Becky Davis earned a reputation for producing confident horses ready for the sales arena or their first steps toward a racetrack. Understanding that a yearling's mental preparation is just as crucial as its physical condition, Davis works to make sure each horse she works with is ready to handle the pressures of the sales ring.

Davis has played a pivotal role in the success of numerous racehorses, including 2024 Grade 1 performer Post Time plus the sales-topping $205,000 Nyquist—How My Heart Works colt at Timonium last year. Central to her success is the careful and individualized approach.

"Every horse for me is a puzzle. I want to figure it out," said Davis, based at her family's Roland Farm near Chesapeake City and Dance Forth Farm in Chestertown. "You see what most of them act like at sales – just walking up and down. That takes a lot of preparation and work, especially when you're taking a horse from a big field and, within a few months, getting them used to traveling, being in a new environment and staying calm."

Yearlings and racehorses get assessed on their physical presence, but Davis works hard on the other side of the equation too.

"My main focus is on their mental state because I want people and horses to be safe," she said. "We expose them to different scenarios, like walking past an empty feed bag or through puddles, to help them adjust. We introduce them to baths gently, focusing on keeping sweat off their coats to prevent bleaching."

She gets creative when it comes to physical conditioning too.

"The only physical conditioning I'm concerned about is making sure they can handle being shown repeatedly at the sale. I don't use any forced exercise – no lunging, swimming or walkers. We only walk them by hand, which helps build trust and ensures their safety. We simulate the sale experience by walking them through various areas like the barn and stalls. For particularly scared horses, I sometimes use a long-acting tranquilizer during prep, which helps them relax and trust us without dulling their awareness."

Her commitment to the preparation is clear and is what she believes makes her operation successful, while focusing on what she does best.

"Trying to make horses appear as something they're not at the sale doesn't serve anyone well because they won't receive the same care afterward," she said. "Our routine starts early; we bring in the colts overnight to monitor them closely, especially since they're more likely to jump fences. They're turned out individually in the morning and gradually adjusted to being alone. Fillies usually go out in pairs unless there's a specific issue, and we carefully manage their time on grass to keep them in optimal condition."

Sycamore Hall, Northview Academies

Also just outside Chesapeake City, the Golden family's Sycamore Hall Farm and Northview Stallion Station have become leaders in yearling preparation, with consignor David Wade and his team, led by Sycamore Hall farm manager Emma Trenary, at the helm.

Northview has long been a leading consignor at Timonium, in terms of volume and overall prices, but went to Fasig-Tipton's high-end sales at Saratoga with a mix of Sycamore Hall weanling pinhooks and homebreds the last three years.

The free walker at Sycamore Hall Farm is covered, ensuring no missed days due to weather. A week before the sale, yearlings stop that daily routine to concentrate on the finishing touches. Farm manager Emma Trenary with general manager David Wade work hard but have fun.

In 2022, Northview sold a $425,000 Mendelssohn filly at Saratoga. Last year, four Northview yearlings went for a combined $1.45 million at Saratoga. They include unbeaten 2-year-old stakes winner Owen Almighty and Churchill Downs maiden winner Enduring Spirit. This year, Northview sold a $500,000 Tapit filly and a $400,000 Maryland-bred Gun Runner colt at Saratoga.

They prepped in Maryland, with a commitment to detail and a mix of techniques.

"We start our prep with the Saratoga select yearlings in May," Trenary said. "Prep for each sale takes about two months. The very beginning for the select sales starts when Fasig-Tipton comes out to inspect the horses. You have to be accepted, so we show them the horses we think are best suited for that sale."

If the horses are selected, the team at Sycamore Hall shifts into full preparation mode, beginning with a thorough evaluation of each yearling's condition.

Nutrition plays a critical role in the development of the yearlings, and the team adjusts feeding programs as needed to ensure each horse is in peak condition.

"Good feeding programs and nutrition are key focuses for us," Trenary said. "Once we start the prep, the yearlings learn

basic Horse 101 stuff – they learn how to stand for a shower or bath because they're not broken to water yet."

Sycamore Hall takes a modern approach, too, using a free walker to efficiently manage multiple horses while still giving each one individual attention.

"In the first week, we walk all the yearlings around it, give them some schooling, and after about a week, they settle into it," Trenary said of the free walker. "Then we let them go off the lead, and we start very slowly, gradually increasing the time on it."

As the sale date approaches, the lessons get more specific. "A week out from the sale, we stop the exerciser and focus on other prep, like manes, clipping, vet checks, and shoeing," Trenary said.

This careful and methodical preparation ensures that each yearling is physically ready and mentally conditioned for the sale environment. To Trenary, the process is more than a job.

"I love prepping yearlings. It's exciting to see them grow from little foals to racehorses ready for sale," she shared. "We keep tabs on all our horses, even the ones we sell. Seeing them succeed, like one we sold last year who just won his first race, is incredibly rewarding."

"The good old-fashioned husbandry – hand walking, curry combs, and grooming twice a day – that's what we used to do. All of my young horses would come in once a day to be fed, and that routine helps them get used to being handled."
– Bill Reightler

Details Matter

Consignor and bloodstock manager Bill Reightler brings a wealth of experience and helps breeders and buyers navigate the market from the beginning. As he put it, every detail counts – from the shine of a horse's coat to the confidence with which it steps into the ring. Reightler's approach aims to ensure that each yearling reaches the sale in peak physical condition, but also shows up mentally prepared to make a lasting impression on potential buyers.

His success stories run long and include champion Declan's Moon, Horse of the Year Knicks Go and Grade 1 winner Army Mule among others. Reightler sold 28 yearlings at last year's Timonium sale, led by an $80,000 Maryland-bred Omaha Beach filly.

The process can start before a horse is even born.

"When selecting a stallion, you need to assess your mare and which stallions are suitable," he said. "The great thing about today's age is that you're able to do all the research on these stallions. The market likes first-year sires. One thing about a first-year sire is that if you're breeding a mare this year in 2024, by 2025, when you go to a first-year sire, nothing is going to happen to diminish the value of that individual. However, if you go to a second-year sire, their first-crop offspring might sell well or poorly, which could either hurt or help you."

Reightler's attention to detail extends beyond pedigree analysis and begins long before the sale.

"Generally, starting from that point, it's about routine care, trimming feet every 30 days, monitoring the foal's condition and keeping records," he said. "The goal is to keep the horse in optimum condition. It's important not to let these foals grow too fast or too slow. Overfeeding can cause conditions like epiphysitis, which affects the growth plates, or cause the foal to become upright."

When a yearling is in peak condition, the prep gets more specific.

"The next stage is intensive preparation, like hand walking and keeping them out of the sun," he said. "The good old-fashioned husbandry – hand walking, curry combs, and grooming twice a day – that's what we used to do. All of my young horses would come in once a day to be fed, and that routine helps them get used to being handled."

As the sale date approaches, Reightler's focus shifts to the final touches.

"When you move on to the final stages, like applying flat steel shoes the last 60 days before the sale, it's about keeping on top of minor wounds and other issues to avoid them becoming major problems. This whole process is very detail-oriented, especially when preparing for the market," he said.

A long walk to and from the exercise walker up the hill from his yearling barn allows Marshall Silverman ample time to teach his yearlings to really walk out nicely.

"A well-fitted, well-behaved horse will always sell better than one that's underweight or poorly prepped."

The Marshall Plan

Seasoned consignor Marshall Silverman has refined a method emphasizing consistency, patience and early education. His yearlings are prepared to excel, in the sales ring or on the racetrack, showcasing the results of a strategy akin to a teacher guiding each student to reach full potential.

Recent graduates from Silverman's large Timonium consignment include graded stakes winner Call Paul, Grade 1-placed Brucia La Terra, Maryland Million Sprint winner Taco Supream and multiple stakes winner Artful Splatter among others. Like Reightler and the others, Silverman pointed to the basics – a worming program, good hay, good feed. Being methodical matters.

Routine is a pillar of successful yearling preparation. The daily schedule young horses follow helps establish a sense of normalcy and expectation. Each session, whether it involves grooming, feeding or training, is conducted at a similar time each day, providing a structured environment to foster learning and growth. This routine not only prepares horses physically – through consistent exercise and care – but also mentally, as they come to understand and anticipate expectations.

"It depends on the horse. If they're horses that I have here, I like to give them 60 days, maybe 70," Silverman said of his prep work. "Some of them lived here, so they were a little ahead of the game. Others weren't, and they might need 70 to 80 days. But they usually go in the [free walker] five to six days a week. You really have to spend some time currying them. And, you know, it's not rocket science."

No, it's not. But rockets don't eat. They don't get scared by unfamiliar sights and sounds. They don't grow in fits and starts. And they don't get auctioned off to the highest bidder.

Like rocket scientists, breeders and sales consignors stay dedicated to the craft.

They know how crucial the work is, and they know how important all the details are to a successful liftoff – from a launchpad or a starting gate. ■

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f., Winchill–Majestic Blend
f., Eastwood–Primo Via
c., Warrior's Reward–Step N Out

PLUS:
c., Collected–Last Kiss
f., Lexitonian–Minola
f., Mendelssohn–Noble Charlotte
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The annual Unsung Hero Award will again be given this year in honor of Joe Kelly.

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Joe Kelly embodied the character of the unsung hero. He was quiet and unassuming, and never sought personal attention or credit, yet was a role model for many. With this award his memory lives on, and is acknowledged annually on Jim McKay Maryland Million Day.

Your unsung hero candidate should embody characteristics that are valuable, but often go unrewarded. He or she should be honest, hardworking and humble. They should inspire and set a good example through their principles and actions.

To nominate your candidate you can request a nomination form by contacting the Maryland Million Ltd. office – either by phone, 410-252-2100 ext. 129, or e-mail registrar@marylandthoroughbred.com – or go to the Maryland Million website at MarylandMillion.com.

ELIGIBILITY:

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Nominations are due by October 1

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FASIG-TIPTON'S MIDDLE EAST RECRUITMENT PAYS OFF FOR MAY SALE

Story by Joe Clancy ■ *Photographs courtesy of Fasig-Tipton*

Michael Adolphson grew up in Perry Hall, Md. His first racing memories involve chasing jockeys Mike Luzzi and Greg Hutton around for free goggles, and cheering on horses from the Meyerhoff family and Dickie Small.

So it's with a mix of pride, awe and sheer satisfaction that – in his role as Fasig-Tipton's Middle East representative – Adolphson helped bring buyers from several countries to the May 2-year-old sale at Timonium and watched them spend almost $6 million on horses.

"I'm a native Marylander, I'm over the moon to see it succeed," said Adolphson, who has lived in Dubai for seven years. "It was nice to be back home. It was almost as much fun taking those clients to old haunts and great restaurants and pubs downtown as it was making sure they were able to buy horses. For somebody who grew up in Baltimore County, it was nice to show people that there's more to it than what you see on the news."

Held eight weeks after the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, the sale featured a seven-figure leader for the 10th consecutive year and sold $32.9 million worth of horses over two days. Florida-based agent Pedro Lanz purchased three for Saudi Arabia-based KAS Stable. Trainer Bhupat Seemar bought four in his name and three others for clients. Saudi-based NAJD Stud bought a $650,000 Maclean's Music colt. Others dotted the sales results and were underbidders on

Fasig-Tipton's Michael Adolphson (left) and trainer Bhupat Seemar look at yearlings at Saratoga this summer.

"They didn't know A, that the sale existed and B, that we could show them in that first year that it was a good idea. It's a great spot to pick up quality horses, and at the same time I think they're increasing the quality of the horses in the sale which is good for everybody."

– Michael Adolphson, on getting international buyers to Timonium

major horses, meaning an idea hatched in November 2022 has started to pay off.

Fasig-Tipton approached Adolphson about the concept. Initially hired by Frank Gabriel to do public relations and communications work for the Dubai Racing Club, Adolphson has filled several additional roles in the country's racing industry – working with Zabeel Equestrian, doing production and on-camera work with the Dubai Racing Channel and being a jockeys' agent. All along, Adolphson made deep connections and expanded his base of knowledge of the area's Thoroughbred passion.

"Obviously it's a Muslim country in the Middle East so that's different, but it's also full of ex-pats – people from England, Ireland, Australia, all over," Adolphson said. "The racing industry is hugely diverse and a lot of the countries here have significant racing cultures as well. In the end, that's easy

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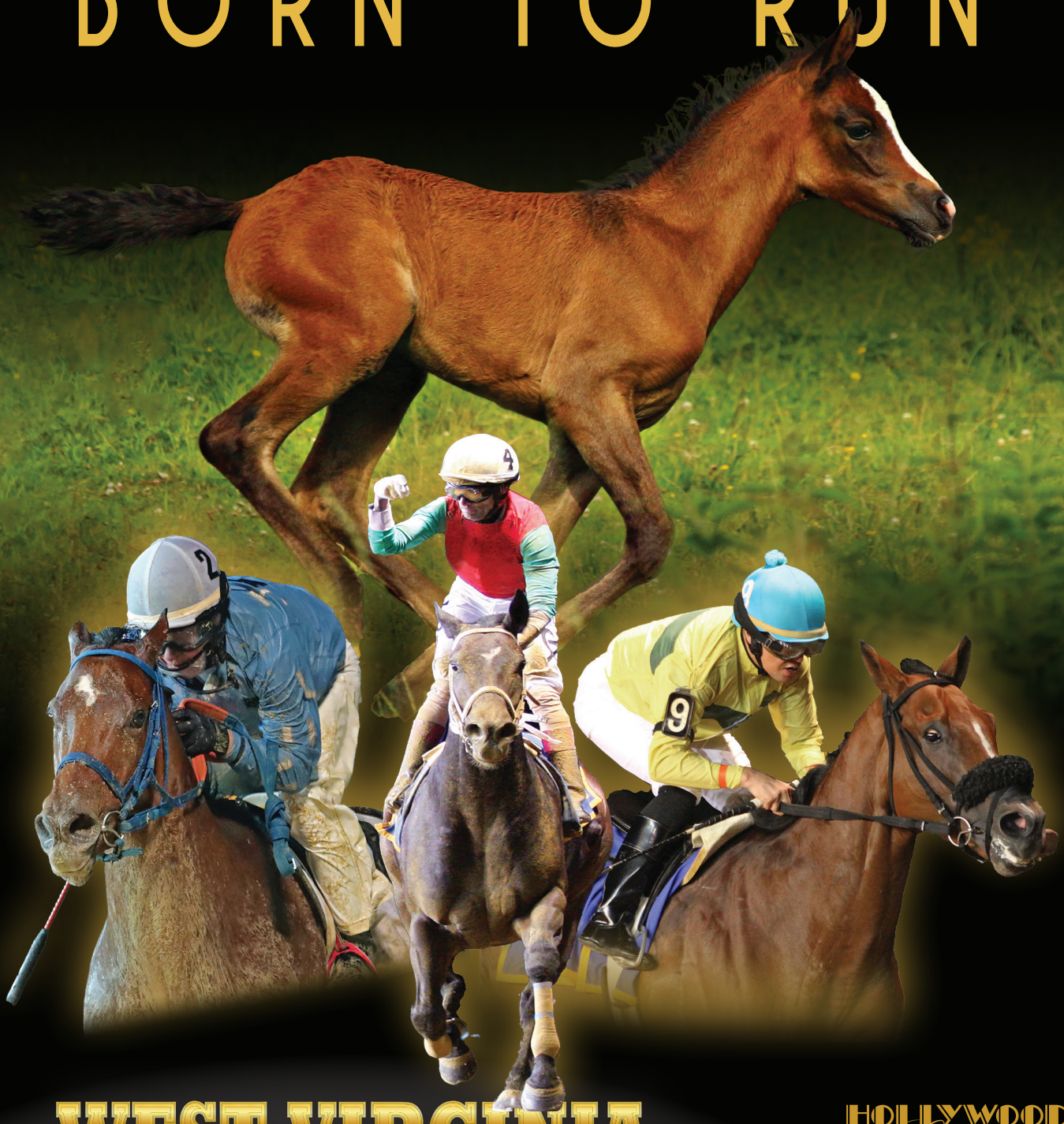

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Medaglia d'Oro colt, purchased by Bhupat Seemar for $325,000, breezes at Timonium in May.

to adapt to because it goes back to racing and horses. Racing culture is universal."

Long before that, he went racing in Maryland, graduated from George Mason University in Virginia and worked in communications positions with Fair Grounds, Breeders' Cup, Belmont Stakes Racing Festival and Santa Anita along with a stint as the Arlington Park stakes coordinator.

Fasig-Tipton noticed the relationships with Middle Eastern owners and trainers and hired him, with eyes on expanding the region's participation at Timonium. For all its recent success, Timonium would not necessarily be an international Thoroughbred destination, and an expanding buyers' bench helps any sale thrive.

"They're used to sales, they've just never been to Maryland," Adolphson said. "They've been to Arqana [in France] and Tattersalls [in England]. They want dirt horses and we have them. They want to win the UAE Derby, the Saudi Cup, Dubai World Cup and races like that."

Adolphson and Fasig tested the theory in 2023, getting a handful of buyers to attend the May sale. Seemar bought two horses, an $85,000 Mendelssohn colt consigned by Cary Frommer and a $150,000 Speightstown colt from Top Line Sales. The former, Mendelssohn Bay, won the UAE Two Thousand Guineas-G3 and finished fourth behind Japan's Forever Young in the UAE Derby-G2 this year. In his next start, Forever Young finished third in a photo in the Kentucky Derby-G1. The other Timonium purchase, Falcon of Arabia, won his debut in February.

On the back of that success, Middle Eastern buyers returned in force this year.

"You never expect it to go the way it did," Adolphson said. "It's due to the strength of the sale. They've worked really

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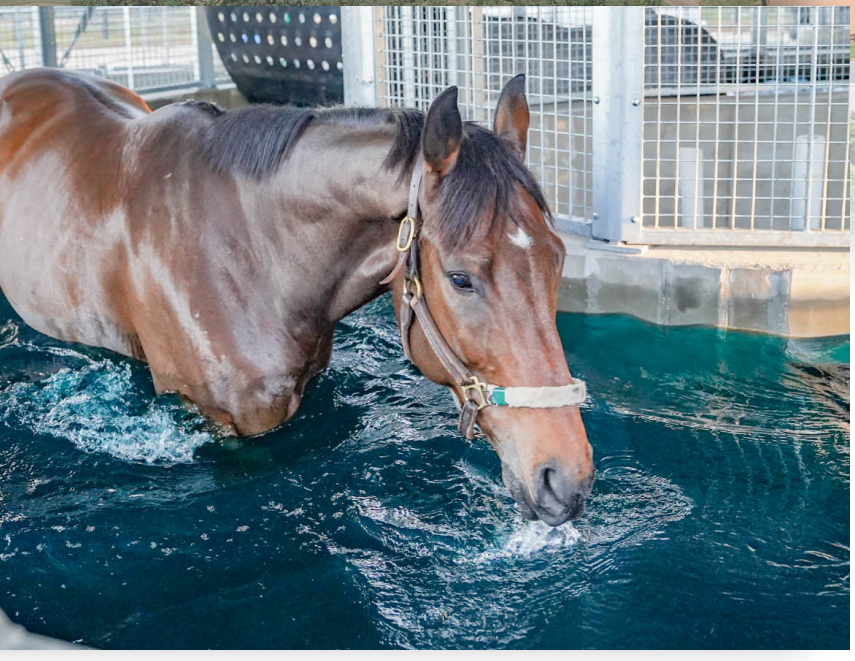

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Anna Seitz was instrumental in Fasig-Tipton's aim to bring in new buyers from the Middle East over the past two years.

hard to make that sale reach its potential and I think it's still on the rise. There's a real market for a dirt track, to look at dirt horses."

The appeal of 2-year-old sales to American-based buyers is obvious with racetrack breezes showcasing race-ready or nearly race-ready prospects. Adolphson's clients agree, but they also approach from another angle.

"You can take a more patient approach because they have two to three months to get ready," Adolphson said. "The goal is the entire 3-year-old season and looking ahead. There's a million-dollar race in the UAE Derby and a million-and-a-half race in the Saudi Derby. They're viable races to get to the Triple Crown. It's no secret, these owners and trainers want to get a piece of the American Triple Crown."

Seemar grew up in India, had an internship at Kentucky's Taylor Made Farm, worked for trainer Bob Baffert and joined the Dubai-based stable of his uncle Satish Seemar (the country's leading trainer six times). Bhupat took over the stable when his uncle retired and was champion trainer in 2022 and 2024. He won the Dubai World Cup-G1 with Kentucky-bred Laurel River in March and finished second in the 2022 UAE Derby with Summer Is Tomorrow to earn a spot in the Kentucky Derby-G1. The colt finished 20th, but ignited something.

"Since I was a kid, I was watching the Kentucky Derbies," he said at Saratoga this summer. "I could never think I would have a horse to run in it but now that I have, we have tasted a little bit of blood. I want to go and do it. In my first year training I had a horse that ran in the Kentucky Derby so it's like I want to go win that race, not just run it. I might have some horses; I might have even bought some horses this year to get me there."

Seemar covered all corners of the market at Timonium, spending as much as $325,000 for a Medaglia d'Oro colt and as little as $40,000 for a Flameaway.

Fasig-Tipton's Anna Seitz took the first steps toward recruiting Middle Eastern buyers, and hiring Adolphson, just by watching the impact on the American marketplace and having a conversation with company president and CEO Boyd Browning Jr.

"That's my job, I recruit buyers," she said. "I was seeing the money. Names were showing up in our sales and in other places. Our ownership [Dubai-based Synergy Investments Ltd.] wants us to have more of a presence there anyway."

She suggested Adolphson, just because she knew him, and was pleasantly surprised by the depth of his connections. She also approached Kentucky-based bloodstock agent Chad Schumer, who buys horses for clients in Saudi Arabia, for help and proposed a recruiting trip. Over 10 days, the three visited people and places in Saudia Arabia, Dubai and Bahrain.

"Between the three of us, we got into meetings with seven or eight royal family members in three different countries," Seitz said. "They were as happy to meet us as we were to meet them. They don't know about who Fasig-Tipton is, what sales we have. We saw their stables, their horses and how it worked. When you have a farm here you want people to come and look at it. It's the same kind of deal there. They care about their horses. They want to win."

Seitz and Adolphson said Fasig-Tipton's approach helped the mission succeed. They weren't trying to sell specific horses or specific agents. They simply wanted people to come to the sale, and tried to help make that happen. The trip was only the beginning. Back in Kentucky afterward, Seitz had to figure out how to get catalogs halfway around the world and to the right people. Boxes shipped overseas included sales pitches in

Arabic and English, emphasizing the dirt track at Timonium and the long list of quality graduates including Kentucky Derby winner Mage, champion Gamine and Dubai Golden Shaheen-G1 winner Switzerland.

"It's what I've been dreaming of doing for every country, that kind of recruiting," Seitz said. "It was very targeted. We sent gifts, we stressed about the dirt, when the sale was and what kind of horses would be there."

The company support helped back up Adolphson's work with his connections.

"I knew that these people wanted to buy horses," he said. "They didn't know A, that the sale existed and B, that we could show them in that first year that it was a good idea. It's a great spot to pick up quality horses, and at the same time I think they're increasing the quality of the horses in the sale which is good for everybody." ■

Additional reporting by Sean Clancy.

Maryland native Michael Adolphson has a flourishing career in the Middle East while expanding demand for Timonium sales.

Trip of a Lifetime

MARYLAND PROGRAM SUPPORTER POLITI TURNS CHILDHOOD INTEREST INTO RACING SUCCESS

Story by Vinnie Perrone

The leg bone's connected to the knee bone.
The knee bone's connected to the thigh bone.
The thigh bone's connected to the hip bone . . .

To hear an orthopedic surgeon tell it, Egypt's connected to France, France to Scotland, Scotland to Ohio, Ohio to Maryland, Maryland to Kentucky. The Earth has its own anatomy, Dr. Joel Politi implied, regions and planes crossed for opportunity, hope, enrichment. Two generations of Politis found it in medicine and a separate curative. Horses.

As he began replacing knees and hips in Columbus, Ohio, 2005, Politi worked a joint venture. He established a "dabbling" horse partnership he called Giddy-Up Stable, after Kramer's line in a *Seinfeld* episode. Full extension came 12 years later: A solo owner, Politi green-lighted Tom Amoss at a Keeneland yearling auction that landed eventual Kentucky Oaks-G1 winner Serengeti Empress; bought a meaty share in the Anchor and Hope Farm stallion Holy Boss, sire of 2023 Maryland-bred divisional champ Bosserati and three full-siblings who found Brittany Russell's barn; suffered as Serengeti Empress's first delivery nearly killed her and her newborn Into Mischief colt; sold the surgically repaired yearling, Invictus, for $1.2 million last year and bred Serengeti Empress anew.

JERRY DZIERWINSKI

Journeys like this get written in pages. And sometimes in the stars.

Politi's father, Jacques, descended from a Greek father and Algerian mother, attended an English-speaking high school, and horse races at the Alexandria Sporting Club in Egypt. Both institutions lit his path.

Amid an exodus of Sephardic Jews from Egypt in the mid-1950s, Jacques

ECLIPSE SPROTSWIRE

Serengeti Empress won the 2019 Kentucky Oaks, earned more than $2 million, and retired to Politi's broodmare band.

found refuge in Marseilles, France, won admission to the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and left there with a medical degree and a Scottish wife. His residency and training eventually led them to Youngstown, the eastern edge of Ohio, where Jacques established more than a practice in pediatrics.

After a U.S. Army stint, he acquired land on the steel city's outskirts, built a 12-stall horse barn, seeded the fields, got a tractor, bought and bred and boarded horses. Jacques' first three children mostly yawned at the development, but 12-year-old Joel thrilled at the big, beautiful, brown and gray additions to the green landscape. Jacques spoke eight languages; Joel discovered a new one by tending Thoroughbreds.

Joel needed no prodding to feed and water them, to clean stalls, to learn and respect and behold their ways. But nothing

"We did that drive with frequency. Get off at the Hagerstown exit, stop at the fast-food place. I knew that drive pretty well. It was really fun."
– Joel Politi, about riding to Charles Town (and Bowie) from home in Ohio

matched those Friday night and weekend joyrides to tracks since shuttered or renamed – Thistledown and Waterford Park, Beulah Park, River Downs, Latonia. Enchantment kicked up dirt at crazy speeds, dressed the air with cigar smoke, turned the grandstand apron electric with every run through the homestretch. When Jacques' horses raced in winter, Maryland's Bowie Race Course stood the destination, often by way of West Virginia and Charles Town.

"We did that drive with frequency," Politi said. "Get off at the Hagerstown exit, stop at the fast-food place. I knew that drive pretty well. It was really fun."

Textbook pages made sense and turned easily for young Joel. The heart of the *Daily Racing Form* broadsheet posed something altogether different – coded messages, lines of numbers that told of horses' race performances. To tease the intrigue, *The Form* sometimes presented a U.S. map marking Thoroughbred track locations. Ak-Sar-Ben in Nebraska. Bandera Downs in Texas. Yakima Meadows in Washington state. The tracks he'd known had distinct personalities; the mystique of new racing outposts in faraway places compelled him.

At New England Baptist Hospital in Boston, Joel completed his medical fellowship in 2000 and, when scant time allowed, a trip or two to Suffolk Downs. Married by then, a family started, he and wife Julie settled in Columbus, Ohio. When they planned a trip to the desert southwest, Joel asked, "How can you vacation in Arizona without visiting Turf Paradise?" Julie, then a burgeoning pediatrician, only smiled.

"I honestly love the adventure of seeing new tracks," she said through a cellphone speaker on a drive to Saratoga.

"She is a good sport," Joel responded.

For years they ran as a coupled entry. In 2005, after the birth of their fourth (and last) daughter, Julie left practice to raise the children. Time alone elusive, Joel and Julie found time to talk during long runs about town, which led to five marathons and maybe 30 half-marathons.

"We started running together as our date time," Joel said. "We would go for runs and talk the whole time. And it was also a way of really getting efficient exercise when you're just really busy."

Life intentionally got busier. Joel invited friends to join Giddy-Up Stable, the name reflecting its recreational purpose. The partnership typically had three or four claimers at a given time; Joel managed the stable, logistics and paperwork, and enlisted Bernie Flint to train.

In 2008, the year before his father died, Politi teamed with trainer Tom Amoss; across the next decade, he formed and liquidated three other partnerships. "My friends were all my friends," Politi said, "but none of 'em were really passionate about racing." In 2016, he became a solitary owner. A year later, the burbling current strengthened.

The industry regarded Amoss then as a claiming trainer, but Politi saw greater possibilities. In 2014, Amoss spent $150,000 on the yearling Mo Tom, who became a graded stakes winner for the Benson family's G M B Racing in his fifth start, made the Kentucky Derby-G1 and grossed $665,356 in purses; paid $120,000 for Lone Sailor, who, in hand, dusted top-class Saratoga maidens in his second start for G M B (and eventually earned nearly $1.3 million).

Hence the revelation. Amoss has a gift for picking horses at the sale.

Before Keeneland's September yearling auction of 2017, Politi and Amoss sketched a $100,000 battle plan. "That's not real money, obviously, to the Daddy Warbucks," Politi said, "but to us that was a lot of money."

Politi returned to the Ohio operating room; Amoss, in the auction ring, examined once more a dark brown Alternation filly from the unraced, unproven Bernardini broodmare Havisham. He finished the bidding at $70,000.

One month later at Keeneland, Politi had Amoss make a $75,000 claim of 2-year-old Nonikas Thunder, by Congrats from Harlan's Holiday graded stakes-placed dam Choragus. A month after that, they claimed the 3-year-old Twirling Candy filly Candy Striper for $50,000 in her second start. Pedigree,

COURTESY OF BRITTANY RUSSELL

JEREMY CLORE

COURTESY OF BRITTANY RUSSELL

Top right: Stakes producer Candy Striper grazes with her 2023 Holy Boss foal. Stakes winner Bosserati (above) and winning full-sister Biscuitwiththeboss (right), Holy Boss daughters out of Candy Striper, train with Brittany Russell at Fair Hill.

to Politi, again spoke potential: Dam Grant Marty a Wish and dam sire Beautiful Crown had stakes-placed paper.

Politi's revised philosophy to race and then breed his females clarified after he bought a 40-percent stake in Holy Boss, the Grade 2 winner who retired to stud at Maryland's Anchor and Hope Farm in 2018. Politi hadn't met Anchor and Hope owners Louis and Grace Merryman; stallion broker Jamie LaMonica worked the deal. The agreement to stand Holy Boss both at Anchor and Hope and in the Southern Hemisphere reduced the purchase price. As Politi said, "It made the deal very palatable," even as he acknowledged a lack of surgical precision in his methodology.

Injuries to Nonikas Thunder and Candy Striper meant early retirement, and a chance to breed them to Holy Boss in 2018. Both mares were claimed "for real money" and born of talent, Politi said, "but if you're really going to support a stallion, you're going to support him with more than that."

That summer, the $70,000 Keeneland September purchase – named Serengeti Empress – started producing. She won her debut at Horseshoe Indianapolis July 4. After a fourth

"He loves his horses. He's so supportive. He's appreciative. He enjoys it. And he's now seeing success on the local level . . . He puts his trust in people, and that goes a long way."

– Grace Merryman, about Joel Politi

at Saratoga, she won the Ellis Park Debutante in August and the Pocahontas-G2 at Churchill Downs to earn a start in the 2018 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies-G1. She finished seventh, but was headed for stardom in 2019.

She opened with a February win in the Rachel Alexandra-G2 at Fair Grounds, enough to earn a spot in the Kentucky Oaks. Meanwhile, Candy Striper produced a Holy Boss filly later named Bosstonian, and Nonikas Thunder the filly Thunder Boss.

On May 3, 2019, Serengeti Empress seized the lead in the Oaks and began to lengthen well into the Churchill Downs stretch. "She had put away Liora, and she was opening up, and there was nobody close," Politi said. "That was pure elation."

Amid the screams and hugs and chaos, Joel turned Jack LaLanne and hoisted Julie overhead. Whisked across track with family and friends, he found a microphone perched before him and the sudden thought of his late father. Born on the outskirts of Youngstown, Ohio, and carried across the land from track to track, the words spilled out: This would have made his world.

With Serengeti Empress' $2.2 million purse haul, Politi grew his racing and breeding stock from 12 to 25. His objective: sell the males, race the females, keep the mares worth breeding. "I'm trying to create a long-term, successful formula," he said, "and be financially viable."

Politi retired Serengeti Empress to Kentucky's Taylor Made Farm and considered Medaglia d'Oro or Not This Time as potential suitors when Spendthrift Farm reps offered Into Mischief for the 2021 season. "Kind of like a meeting made in heaven," Politi said. A date was set.

The following January, hope and fear collided. Serengeti Empress nearly bled out from a torn uterus during delivery, and her newborn colt arrived with seven broken ribs, close enough to the heart to demand emergency surgery. "Both of them were touch and go for about a month," Politi said. "It was a fairly traumatic experience for her, for him and for our family."

Care meant separating foal from mother. The colt, Invictus, needed six weeks of stall rest fed by Dixie, the nurse-mare draft horse, and by humans holding bottles.

As Serengeti Empress began to heal that spring of 2022, Candy Striper produced her fourth Holy Boss foal, the filly Biscuitwiththeboss. Politi cheerfully addressed the name by assuring, "I'm not a TV junkie," even though he'd poached it from a line in the Apple TV series *Ted Lasso*, dropping the S from Biscuits to make the 18-character max. (He also bought a Ghostzapper yearling in 2019 and named her Littlestitious, the invented word Steve Carell uttered in an episode of *The Office*.)

Biscuitwiththeboss added more family flavor to Russell's Fair Hill stable, lodging near accomplished sister Bosserati. Whether one regarded the other with special recognition, Russell cackled no and said, "That would be too cool, I think."

That they have certain similarities, Russell said, bodes well for "Biscuit." Bosserati won three consecutive turf sprints last year, Laurel Park's Stormy Blues Stakes among them, and earned title as champion Maryland-bred 3-year-old filly. "Biscuit" followed her debut victory with a sixth in Saratoga's Astoria Stakes in June. The filly she beat, The Queens M G, emerged to win the Schuylerville and Grade 3 Adirondack.

As owners go, Russell said, the orthopedic surgeon doesn't do much probing. "He's a great guy, and he kind of leaves us to it. He keeps it super simple. If a horse needs time, he's willing to give it to him."

It's a horse-first perspective, Politi said, and a question of know-how. Should a veterinarian ask his opinion on equine knees and hips? In sum, "I try to make myself a student of horse anatomy as much as I can, but I definitely rely on the experts."

Last year, after Candy Striper produced a fifth Holy Boss foal in her fifth year at the Merryman farm in Port Deposit, Politi rewarded her with a short-lived move to Kentucky and a cover by Maclean's Music.

"She deserves a chance to go to a proven, high-class stallion," he said, adding plans to return her to Anchor and Hope

JERRY DZIERWINSKI

Joel (center), Julie (left) and Nina Politi accept a 2023 Renaissance Award for Bosserati (champion Maryland-bred 3-year-old filly and leading Maryland female turf runner) from Katy Voss and David Richardson.

to deliver a Maryland-bred foal. Nonikas Thunder remains there, and star-crossed broodmare Fortunate Girl (Hard Spun—A P Mink, by A.P. Indy) arrived early in 2024. Her first foal, the Sky Mesa-sired filly Ghee for the Win, left the maiden ranks this year at 3; subsequent foals by Maclean's Music and Not This Time died. After Politi shipped Fortunate Girl to Anchor and Hope, she birthed a Jack Christopher colt in May and had a late-season liaison with Holy Boss.

Politi linked his belief in Holy Boss to the Merrymans, saying, "They are quality people beyond quality. They're salt of the earth. They work the farm. Their farm is their life and their business . . . Taylor Made, you would consider a very, very high-caliber Kentucky farm. The care that they get at Anchor and Hope is equal to [that] because of the Merrymans."

"He loves his horses," Grace Merryman said of Politi. "He's so supportive. He's appreciative. He enjoys it. And he's now seeing success on the local level."

Then, "He puts his trust in people, and that goes a long way."

The surgeon who trusted other surgeons, veterinarians, caretakers and Taylor Made staff in turn received a mare and foal fully healed. Given a year off from breeding, Serengeti Empress delivered a Curlin colt this year and stood in foal to Not This Time. Invictus, after his traumatic birth, grew strong and straight enough to sell. But would the buyers see a colt Politi called "stunning and so full of personality" or a dark bay with a massive scar across his chest?

Undaunted, Politi sent Invictus to Keeneland's 2023 September Yearling Sale and set the reserve at $1.2 million. WinStar Farm, with China Horse Club and Siena Farm, met the minimum – "surprised me a little bit," said Politi, who plans further stock upgrades – and eventually sent him to trainer Brad Cox.

Back in Columbus, toe and knee problems unrelated to running turned Politi – and, by extension, Julie – into bicyclists. At 55, he does surgeries Mondays and Tuesdays, sometimes Fridays, initial hip and knee replacements or "redos and disasters and complications." He keeps office hours Wednesdays and Thursdays, serves as managing partner of a group of 70 orthopedic surgeons, holds weekly medical meetings, conducts board meetings, teaches residents.

"The good news is, there's not much racing going on on Mondays and Tuesdays," Politi said, insisting that that didn't determine his schedule-making.

On a Saturday, July 27, Invictus debuted at Saratoga with a seventh at 5-2, initial steps on a path to somewhere, the real and symbolic movements that reflect the timeless pursuit of opportunity, hope, enrichment.

"It's been a journey," Politi said, a claim that needed no second opinion. ■

RETIRED RACEHORSE PROJECT

Connections Matter

RACEHORSE/SPORTHORSE WORLDS NEED BETTER LINKS

By Kirsten Green

For fans of racing and equestrian sport, the peak of spring is a Kentucky doubleheader: the last weekend in April we get the thrilling test of versatility and athleticism that is the Kentucky Three-Day Event in Lexington; the first weekend in May, just 80 miles west in Louisville, we get the Kentucky Derby's "most exciting two minutes in sport." In some ways, the elite sporting events are closely linked – and in other ways they couldn't be further apart.

On April 22, *BloodHorse* published a list of nine horses eligible for The Jockey Club's Thoroughbred Incentive Program who had entered the four-star and five-star competitions that weekend, which sent my social feeds into a tizzy because it was quickly determined that there were actually 12 full-blooded Thoroughbreds on the entry list. All 12 are eligible to apply for free T.I.P. numbers based on the simple and inclusive criteria: "any horse that has been registered with The Jockey Club or a foreign Thoroughbred stud book approved by The Jockey Club and the International Stud Book Committee." The three missing horses were Artist (unnamed 2011 Maxamore in the New Zealand studbook) and Vincent Chase, who both have T.I.P. numbers, and Phelps (JC Tiz Special), who does not.

T.I.P. numbers are issued to unique horse-rider combinations to track results and activity that accumulate toward a variety of awards programs for Thoroughbreds who have moved onto careers as sport or pleasure horses. With The Jockey Club rolling out a new traceability effort as we speak, T.I.P. numbers will also be leveraged as a data point to help account for Thoroughbreds who have exited the racing industry.

As I browsed the comment threads and reviewed the additional information that had been compiled, I noticed the RRP had a connection to one of the breeders, McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds, which bred the four-star event horse Lovely Assistant. Anne and Joe McMahon's son, Mike McMahon, operates McMahon and Hill Bloodstock and Bourbon Lane Stables, and is also the president of Thoroughbred Charities of America, the RRP's longest-standing grantor. I sent Mike an email to make sure he and his family had seen the entry. He hadn't, but he knew what a big accomplishment it was to make it to this level of eventing and passed word on to Anne, who was in town and excitedly looking for foal pictures and making plans to go to the Kentucky Horse Park the next morning to watch the horse's dressage test.

Knowing that it was a little more complicated than parking and walking in, I offered to see if I could contact Lovely Assistant's rider, Hanna Bundy, and get Anne back to the stable area to see her homebred. Everything came together and the next morning I watched Anne visit with Lovely Assistant, Bundy, and her fiancé Nick Hansen; it turns out the McMahons bought a winter farm in Ocala, Fla., around the corner from Bundy. The degrees of separation game didn't stop there: Lovely Assistant was stabled next to five-star Thoroughbred Phelps, a son of WinStar Farm's pensioner Tiznow. Mike McMahon's wife, Dr. Natanya Nieman, is the resident veterinarian and general manager at WinStar.

When you see how closely the racing and riding worlds are linked just within the connections of two horses, it's hard to reconcile how we got to a point where off-track Thoroughbred fans are fact-checking a leading racing publication, owned by the only stud book for the breed in North America, racing or otherwise. On the other hand, if you've ever tried to take a dive into trying to trace a Thoroughbred outside the racing

USEA/LINDSAY BERRETH

Hanna Bundy jogs Lovely Assistant out for the judges at this year's Kentucky Three-Day Event. Below, Anne McMahon catches up with Lovely Assistant, bred by McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds, along with Bundy and Nick Hansen in the stable area.

RRP/KIRSTEN GREEN

industry, it becomes more apparent just how far apart these two worlds still are. The RRP has always keenly monitored the entry list for the Kentucky Three-Day, as it is reliably rife with opportunities to highlight Thoroughbred influence. There are opportunities to champion the breed here, but you've got to be fairly resourceful to find what you need. Here's some insight into why.

When horses retire from racing careers, they find their next homes through a variety of channels: via a Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance-accredited facility, a nonprofit listing service such as CANTER, a track-based program such as Turning for Home, the reseller market, and increasingly, directly from the connections upon retirement without the aid of an intermediary. Optimally, the retiring connections transfer the horse's certificate to the new owner and report the horse as retired from racing. In reality, until HISA oversight and The Jockey Club's ramped-up traceability efforts, many racing connections didn't bother with this step, sometimes even withholding the certificate as a means of keeping the

Best Practices

What can Thoroughbred owners and breeders do to help make sure retired racehorses connect to second-career databases?

• Transfer a horse's certificate via the "Transferred as Retired from Racing" process in The Jockey Club's registry portal. This process must be completed within 60 days of the transfer, but it is now an online process. The step will prompt the buyer to create a registry account; they will be on file as a certificate holder should database integration improve.

• Make yourself available to post-racing owners. A lot of OTTB owners don't know how to go about getting in touch with racing connections. Consider sharing your contact information via an attachment to the digital certificate (or a sticker on the back of physical papers). OTTB owners are a population primed to become racing fans and allies. Open that door for them.

• Consider microchipping older horses and reporting that number to The Jockey Club, even if they're pensioned on the farm with you. Things happen. Tattoos become increasingly illegible as time goes on and microchips are now the universally accepted form of identification.

Note: If these steps are consistently and habitually performed, matching horses and current owners in sport-based databases will be a more efficient and reliable process when the time comes to ultimately create that continuity we're hoping for.

horse from racing, rather than completing the retirement protocol. In this step alone, you already have a large population of non-racing Thoroughbred owners who are not engaging with their breed registry.

After that, if horses go on to competitive riding careers, a large portion will end up in the United States Equestrian Federation's database and cross-registered with affiliated national sport associations. Frequently, horses will be registered under new show names rather than their registered names; additionally, pedigrees are not always reliably included with these records. Another dead end.

If the horse makes it to the international level in a select number of equestrian sports, they will receive a passport from the Federation Equestre Internationale and again, the pedigree may not be included with the horse's record. On top of that, until recently, the FEI had an agreement to only name full-member stud books of the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses in horse profiles. The International Stud Book Committee of Thoroughbreds, which collectively represents Thoroughbred stud books to the WBFSH, is only an affiliate member of the WBFSH, because they are racehorse registries, not purpose-bred sport horse registries. This meant that Thoroughbreds in the FEI database simply had "NULL" listed as their stud book.

The USEF and the FEI have adopted microchipping for horse identification in the same way The Jockey Club has. Are those microchip numbers reported or cross-referenced between organizations? No. Are post-racing owners who have added microchips to older horses encouraged to report those serial numbers to The Jockey Club? No. Remember, there's a pretty good chance they're not on file as an owner with The Jockey Club at all, depending on how the retirement transaction was handled.

Bringing it full circle with our two Thoroughbreds with so few degrees of separation: Lovely Assistant is still competing under her registered name. Her pedigree is complete on her USEF and FEI records, so it's straightforward to find the rest of her history in Equibase and Equineline. Phelps has his pedigree completed on his USEF record, but there's nothing on his FEI record. Neither horse's microchip number is recorded with The Jockey Club. The only reason we know that Phelps is Tiz Special, by Tiznow, is because someone savvy with these databases wanted to know. I wouldn't expect the average off-track Thoroughbred owner to have an advanced proficiency in researching these types of records and I also doubt that the majority of Thoroughbreds who have exited racing and/or breeding necessarily follow a trajectory where they would hit these specific sport databases, either.

This is why traceability and having a registry promoting the breed beyond racing go hand in hand. The framework is there in the form of transaction points available to be captured. The Jockey Club has already begun this process by utilizing T.I.P. registrations to account for horses post-racing, and there are readily available databases that could also be leveraged. Retire a horse through a TAA facility? Record update. Enter a horse in the Thoroughbred Makeover or list a horse in the RRP classifieds? Record update. And so much of the aftercare process is transpiring even beyond the scope of these organizations.

If we can start recognizing that aftercare is so much broader than these entities and start operating in a more unified manner, there's a whole lot more data out there to be harnessed. Stakeholders in racing and breeding just need to decide that it's a good thing to embrace the secondary market for their horses. ■

Kirsten Green is the executive director of the Retired Racehorse Project.

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— In Memoriam —

Esther Christmas Cassidy

Daughter of Maryland trainer Donelson Christmas and a member of one of the state's racing families, Esther Christmas Cassidy died in April at age 90. She was born in Washington, D.C., in 1933 and was formerly married to Bertrand Joseph Cassidy. The grandmother of seven, great-grandmother to eight and aunt of dozens is also survived by her children William, Carroll and Clark, sister Corinne Christmas Sullivan and brother Donelson Christmas Jr.

Esther grew up on Christmas Farm in Upper Marlboro, Md., and made Thoroughbred horses part of her life. She later lived in Chevy Chase, Rockville and Olney, Md., before becoming a full-time resident of Naples, Fla. nearly 20 years ago.

Esther attended Sacred Heart School in Bethesda, Md., followed by Manhattanville College in Purchase, N.Y., where she graduated in 1950 as one of only two students who majored in Physics. She worked as a physicist at the National Bureau of Standards in Washington, D.C., later the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Department of Commerce for more than 40 years.

Trish Gilbert

Three-day eventing pioneer Trish Gilbert, who helped launch the Fair Hill International three-day event – which became the Maryland five-star at Fair Hill – died in May. She was 83. One of the first women to compete in eventing, she filled many roles in later years as a team selector, young rider chairman, event director, licensed official and more.

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She was inducted to the United States Eventing Association Hall of Fame in 2022.

The Churchville, Md., resident was born in Winchester, Va., in 1941, the daughter of David and Mary Donovan. She married horseman William "Billy" Gilbert in 1971 and they operated the Walnut Hall Thoroughbred breeding, breaking and training business in Boyce, Va. They moved to Churchville in the 1980s and ran Church Mouse Meadows farm. The facility prepped yearlings and 2-year-olds for a variety of clients including Tuffy Hacker, Shamrock Farm, Sonny Hine, Fourbros Stable and others.

Billy Gilbert died in 2011. Trish is survived by daughters Mary Elizabeth Looney, Rumsey Gilbert Keefe and Samantha Gilbert Brennan; son Raymond Richard Guest; stepson William Pepper Gilbert; brother David Donovan and sister Deirdre Donovan; 12 grandchildren, three step-grandchildren and seven step-great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Fair Hill International, 378 Fair Hill Drive, Elkton, Md. 21921 or at fairhillinternational.org.

Jerre Taylor Garrett

Writer, educator and horseperson Geraldine "Jerre" Taylor Garrett, who wrote a column called "Bus's Tackroom" for the *Maryland Horse* for several years, passed away in April. She was 85.

The daughter of Maryland/Delaware-area horseman Richard "Bus" Taylor, Garrett worked at Delaware Park as a mutuel teller and rose to a position of more responsibility in the department. She taught at several schools in the area and worked as an education grant writer for MBNA and in administration for the Children's Beach House in Lewes, Del.

She was a prolific writer, known for her humor and human-interest stories in area pubications, and wrote a book titled *Muffled Dreams and Mustard Spoons*.

She wrote "Bus's Tackroom" from 1975-79 – retelling some of her father's tales from his tackroom on the farm near Elkton, Md., at Delaware Park, or anywhere else horses raced and trained in the area.

Preceded in death by her husband, John W. Garrett, she is survived by children Geraldine Pierce, Monique Garrett, Shivaun Jester, Richard Garrett, Jack Garrett, Patrick Garrett, and Michael Garrett and eight grandchildren.

Gale Shaffer

Former Maryland Horse Breeders Association employee Gale Shaffer died in May. She was 79. The Baltimore native spent 20 years with the MHBA as a receptionist and registrar before retiring in 2010.

She grew up riding and showing in Anne Arundel County, graduated from

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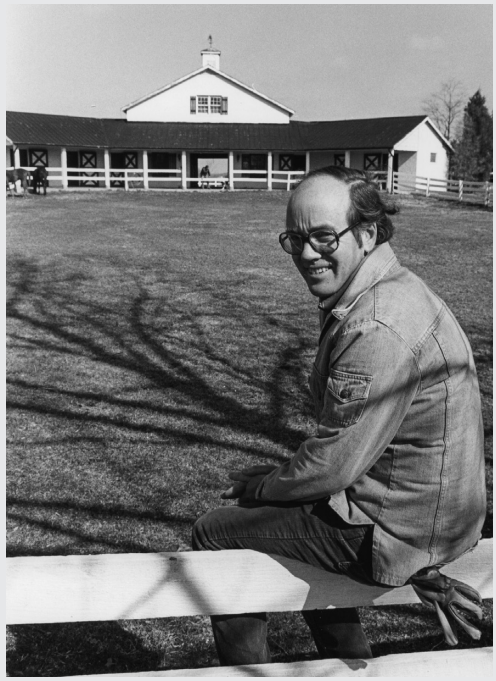
— In Memoriam —

Kim Firestone



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Owner/breeder and former Maryland Horse Breeders Association president Kimball "Kim" Firestone, who owned farms in Potomac and later Middletown, Md., died June 3. He was 90. A former executive with his family's Firestone Tire and Rubber Company owned an acclaimed restaurant, Firestone's Culinary Tavern, in Frederick.

Firestone earned a master of business administration degree from Stanford University and served in the U.S. Army before joining the tire company in Akron, Ohio, in 1964. He worked in real estate and finance jobs there before moving to the company's government affairs office to Washington, D.C. He resigned his positions in 1976 to pursue private business interests, but served on the company board through 1988 when the company was acquired by Bridgestone.

He opened the restaurant in 1999 and continued to operate it along with Firestone's Market on Market, an adjoining gourmet food and wine shop. He wrote a book, *Reflections on a Silver Spoon: How a Foodie Found Home*, in 2013 and described how he found his passion for food and the restaurant industry.

Firestone played polo and rode show horses as a young man and got into racing with a Keeneland yearling purchase (named Rubber Game) in 1967. He later purchased stallion shares (Little Current and Halo among others), owned broodmares and had racehorses with trainer Billy Dixon. Firestone won a graded stakes with Groan (later a stakes producer), Short Fuse Susie, Spanish Tune and Recharged among others. In 1978, he paid $89,000 for 20 yearlings sold as a group by Windfields Farm, later selling them individually at various sales for approximately $150,000. Firestone sold yearlings at Saratoga and 2-year-olds at Timonium under his Glenstone Farm banner. A 200-acre facility in Middletown, Glenstone stood stallions, including Moleolus, Benefice and Century Prince. He served on the early Breeders' Cup board of directors.

In a January 1981 article in the *Maryland Horse*, Firestone sounded prescient when he said, "What Maryland needs most right now is an influx of quality stallions. We'll never be the equal of Kentucky, but we should be strong enough to stand stallions of good caliber. Good enough so that a breeder will think twice before he passes up what we have to offer instead of shipping his mares to Kentucky."

For all his optimism, he eventually sold Glenstone to Richard Dorfmann and Jerome Golub and continued to manage the Thoroughbred business there, which included the purchase of stallion Taylor's Special in 1987. Firestone was running the farm in 1990, but by 1993 had scaled back his ventures and began to turn his attention to the restaurant business.

Firestone is survived by daughter Carey Romer, sons William Curtis, Leonard and Christopher Firestone, 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, in addition to brother Brooks Firestone, sister Lendy Firestone Brown, stepsons Borya Roslov and Alyosha Achalov and their mother, Larisa Firestone Dittman.

Baltimore College of Commerce and eventually turned her fondness for horses to jobs with Dark Hollow Farm and later the MHBA. She bred Thoroughbreds and was represented by 1980s timber stakes horse Treasure Island among others. Shaffer also raised rabbits and was a life member of the American Rabbit Breeders Association.

She is survived by daughter Amberly Blizzard, two granddaughters and seven great-grandchildren.

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321 Main Street
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410-252-2100

www.marylandthoroughbred.com

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Double Crown

Dark Hollow sweeps top two spots at 90th yearling show

By Cindy Deubler

Lexi Danielson

A colt by The Factor won the grand champion ribbon at the Maryland Horse Breeders Assocation's 90th yearling show for owners/breeders David and JoAnn Hayden and Ellen Charles.

After years of show success, including sending out champions the past two years, Ellen Charles and David and JoAnn Hayden joined forces to take home the grand champion trophy at the 90th Maryland Horse Breeders Association yearling show. Their colt by The Factor was selected by longtime bloodstock agent Rick Abbott as his top pick of 59 yearlings judged in the Timonium Fairgrounds' horse show ring Sunday, July 21.

Judge Rick Abbott (center) receives recognition from announcer Frank Vespe (left) and ringmaster Brian Magness.

Paget Bennett (pink cap) presents the Fasig-Tipton sponsored trophy to owner/breeders David Hayden (left) and JoAnn Hayden for their Class I winner, a colt by Great Notion out of Flit, a half-brother to last year's Grand Champion.

Presenting the awards for the Class II-winning colt to (center) owners JoAnn and David Hayden and Ellen Charles are (from left) MHBA board member Amy Burke and trophy sponsor Christie Steele. Jenna Isennock handled both colt class winners.

Marshall Silverman won Class III with a daughter of Blofeld and also took the groom's award. The presentation was made by Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's Paget Bennet.

David and JoAnn Hayden accept the show prizes from MHBA vice-president Josh Pons for their Class IV-winning filly by Honor A. P., who was handled by Sallyellen Hurst.

The Class II-winning colt had an air about him before he arrived at the show.

"I saw him as a foal but hadn't seen him for a while, and I was bowled over by what a handsome guy he is," Charles said. "He's a lovely, lovely colt. Fortunately our judge felt the same way and, there we go."

The Haydens and Charles became partners in his dam, Silver Sides, three and a half years after Charles sold her as a yearling in 2017. Herself a yearling show participant, Silver Sides – from the first crop of Charles' graded stakes-winning Bandbox and a year-older half-sister to Maryland-bred champion Laddie Liam – had been dropping through the claiming ranks. "I owned her dam [Buffgirl]. And she is by my wonderful Bandbox, who I loved," said Charles. "I said, 'David, we can claim Silver Sides now for $5,000, would you like to go in on that.' And he said, 'Sure.' "

The colt is the mare's second foal.

"I had sent [Ellen] pictures of him in the field because I thought he was stunning," said JoAnn Hayden. "I said, 'This boy is really changing – he's coming into himself.' As a young colt he looked refined, like a lovely filly. Then all of a sudden he started looking like a colt.

"When she came out to look at all her horses this year, I had him out. Ellen made the decision right then and there that she wanted to race him."

Charles owns Silver Sides' first foal, though that wasn't the plan. She was supposed to sell at last year's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic yearling sale, but Charles admitted to getting a big carried away.

"She was being so nice [in the sales barn] that she just couldn't leave home, so I bought her," said Charles of a $100,000 final bid. "So now we've decided I'm not going to raise my hand again."

Named Silver Trinket and sent to Brittany Russell, the Gift Box filly finished second in her debut Aug. 10.

Abbott was impressed by the presentation of all the yearlings. "The quality was so high with beautiful horses," he said, and particularly noted the Dark Hollow Farm entries.

"They are commercial breeders and do a great job. [The yearlings] are just very athletic, slick and muscular with exercise. I'm not sure what exercise program they go through, but they are so athletic."

Dark Hollow yearlings won all three classes in which they participated. As the crew readied yearlings, a ritual that fits perfectly into preparations for future endeavours, be they sales, shipping to Virginia to be certified, or going to trainers, Hayden made an observation: "Whatever this judge likes, we have one."

Eleven yearlings shipped off the Upperco farm. "We've had every type this time," Hayden said. "I will say the consistency was they were all reasonably correct. In my mind, there was nobody the judge would look at and say, 'That's a no go.'

"But we had every type. Tall, lanky, Twiggy-type rangy. . . short, stocky. . . elegant."

The Haydens' only entrant in Class I was a Great Notion homebred out of the Not For Love mare Flit, thus a half-brother to last year's grand champion Honor A. P. colt.

"I'm never surprised when Flit does something," said Hayden. "She's by Not For Love, and you can get the most gor-

Ellen Charles and JoAnn and David Hayden (center) accept the trophies and prizes for their Grand Champion Class II-winning colt from (left to right) Paget Bennett, Amy Burke and Dr. Rachel Blakey, as Jenna Isennock sets up for the photo.

David and JoAnn Hayden's Reserve Champion filly (from Class IV) with handler Sallyellen Hurst is greeted by Dr. Rachel Blakey, Amy Burke and Paget Bennett.

Grooms awards: Class I and Class II colts were prepared by Alice Peirce; Class IV filly with John Foster.

geous horses out of those Not For Love mares."

Hayden wasn't sure what would happen after the Class I win.

"That colt is big, robust, correct and balanced, but a coarser-looking horse," she said. "When he won I didn't know what was going to happen with the other colt, because he's a different type. The other is more elegant, very balanced, has a nice walk."

The same could be said about the Haydens' Class IV-winning Honor A. P. filly, Abbott's reserve champion. "The filly and the champion colt are the same type," said Hayden of the daughter of the Pure Prize mare Bread and Butter. "I adore the filly. She went through the same growth kind of thing that he did. She was what I'd call fine and a little narrow. But she just came into her self and got more beautiful every day. She covers so much ground and is very elegant. She has a lot of class about the way she holds herself."

This was the second class winner in a row for Bread and Butter, herself out of a Not For Love mare and a class winner in 2012. Her daughter by Golden Lad won Class III in 2023.

Since getting their first blue ribbon in 1989, the Haydens have won a combined 21 classes as Dark Hollow Farm (solely or in partnership), but have prepared a number of other winners, including Charles' champion Bandbox colt in 2022.

However, winning three classes in one year is a first for the couple after five previous times seeing their homebreds win two classes in the same show. In 2009 they exhibited the champion and reserve champion, only the second time in 75 years that the same owner took home both trophies. They also sent out the grand champion in 2014, a Pure Prize filly named Cherished Prize.

But to share the grand champion trophy with Charles is a bonus.

"Ellen is a dear, dear friend," said Hayden. "It's such a joy because we put a lot of time in with our horses and her interest is in every fact about her horses. She knows every horse and what's going on with them; she's in constant contact and wants to be a part of it. I love that.

"She sees every horse; puts her hands on them; takes pictures," continued Hayden. "I give her a lot of credit. She's part of the whole thing all the time."

The Class III winner (for Maryland-sired fillies) is a daughter of Blofeld owned by Marshall Silverman. Abbott remarked that the chestnut is "a beautiful horse, and my eyes are glued to beautiful horses."

Bred by the Murray family's Murmur Farm, the filly is a granddaughter of the Murrays' Harp Innis. When bred to home stallion Yarrow Brae, Harp Innis produced not only Celtic Innis, a stakes winning, graded stakes-placed sprinter and earner of $648,638, and stakes winner Clever Yankee, but also Celtic Music, the dam of the class-winning filly.

Silverman approached Audrey Murray this year about purchasing a Blofeld yearling and selected the Celtic Music filly.

Now 17, Celtic Music has a winner by Blofeld, and is back in foal to the Murmur Farm sire. With the win, and two placements in the first and third classes, Blofeld was the leading Maryland sire of

the show and awarded the Northview Stallion Station Get-of-Sire trophy.

The yearlings judged are eligible for a $40,000 premium award split annually, with $20,000 to the exhibitors of the four show contestants who earn the most money as 2-year-olds during 2024, and another $20,000 divided among the exhibitors of the four highest-earning 3-year-old runners the next year. ❧

Special Thanks

The MHBA extends thanks to show sponsors: Fasig-Tipton Midlantic, Gegorek and Company PA, Horizon Farm Credit, James B. Steele Jr., Komlo and Associates Inc., Larking Hill Training Center, Maryland Horse Industry Board, Maryland Jockey Club, Maryland Million, Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Murmur Farm, Northview Stallion Station, The Mill, The Racing Biz, This Is Horse Racing and Wasabi Ventures Stables. Added appreciation goes to the Maryland State Fair (provider of the facility), Country Life Farm (straw) and Maryland Equine Center (on call throughout the day).

Results

Class I. For colts and geldings foaled in Maryland, the produce of mares covered in Maryland (12 exhibited)

1. b.c., 3/11/23, Great Notion—Flit, by Not For Love. Owned and bred by Dark Hollow Farm, Upperco, Md. 2. ch.c., 2/22/23, Divining Rod—Love's Legend, by Not For Love. Owned by Jerry Knauer and Ted Maher, Baltimore, Md. Bred by Jerry Knauer. 3. dk.b./br.c., 3/26/23, Blofeld—Faze the Nation, by Cal Nation. Owned and bred by Housatonic Bloodstock, Nicole Martin and Ciara Denicolo, Baltimore, Md. 4. ch.c., 4/16/23, Holy Boss—Hot Friesia, by Friesan Fire. Owned and bred by Richard Blue Jr., Brooklandville, Md. 5. dk.b./br.c., 1/25/23, Divining Rod—Miss Nondescript, by Mosler. Owned and bred by Country Life Farm and Miss Nondescript, Bel Air, Md.

Class II. For colts and geldings foaled in Maryland, the produce of mares covered in states other than Maryland (19 exhibited)

1. b.c., 4/8/23, The Factor—Silver Sides, by Bandbox. Owned and bred by Dark Hollow Farm and Hillwood Stable, Upperco, Md. 2. b.c., 3/11/23, Bolt d'Oro—Lunar Rille, by English Channel. Owned and bred by Country Life Farm and Lunar Rille, Bel Air, Md. 3. dk.b./br.c., 3/5/23, Honor A. P.—Fancy Love, by Not For Love. Owned and bred by John Davison, Baltimore, Md. 4. b.c., 3/20/23, Union Rags—My Golden Belle, by My Golden Song. Owned by Marama Farm, Clarksville, Md. Bred by George Doetsch Jr. 5. gr./ro.c., 3/25/23, Honor A. P.—Dream Exchange, by Exchange Rate. Owned and bred by Northwoods Stable, Butler, Md.

Class III. For fillies foaled in Maryland, the produce of mares covered in Maryland (14 exhibited)

1. ch.f., 2/26/23, Blofeld—Celtic Music, by Yarrow Brae. Owned by Marshall Silverman, New Freedom, Pa. Bred by Murmur Farm. 2. dk.b./br.f., 2/15/23, Irish War Cry—Get Set Go, by More Than Ready. Owned by Katy Voss Revocable Trust, West Friendship, Md. Bred by Katy Voss. 3. dk.b./br.f., 3/15/23, Golden Lad—Fearless Lassie, by Jump Start. Owned by Daniel and Lianna McKenzie, Cockeysville, Md. Bred by Katy Voss, Daniel and Lianna McKenzie. 4. gr./ro.f., 3/23/23, Blofeld—Indian Sugar, by Congrats. Owned and bred by Warwick Equine Services, Ellicott City, Md. 5. dk.b./br.f., 4/4/23, Divining Rod—Walking the Kitten, by Kitten's Joy. Owned by Ronald Young, Wellington, Fla. Bred by Katy Voss.

Class IV. For fillies foaled in Maryland, the produce of mares covered in states other than Maryland (14 exhibited)

1. b.f., 4/13/23, Honor A. P.—Bread and Butter, by Pure Prize. Owned and bred by Dark Hollow Farm, Upperco, Md. 2. ch.f., 4/21/23, Known Agenda—War Value, by War Front. Owned and bred by Country Life Farm and War Value, Bel Air, Md. 3. ch.f., 3/6/23, Gift Box—Access to Charlie, by Indian Charlie.

Premium award winners from 2021 and 2022 MHBA Yearling shows

The $40,000 MHBA Yearling Show premium is split and distributed twice among the four show contestants who earn the most money as 2- and 3-year-olds. The highest earners of 2023 received $13,000 for first; $4,000, second; $2,000, third; and $1,000, fourth.

Shown in 2021—3-year-olds in 2023

Judge: Gary Contessa

Seven's Eleven—$249,230
gr./ro.g., Bandbox—Senorita Siete, by Senor Swinger; shown in Class I by Cottonwood Stable.
In 2023: Won Maryland Million Sprint S, Howard and Sondra Bender Memorial S

Willful Desire—$143,200
b.f., Friesan Fire—Will Do, by Roman Ruler; 4th in Class III, shown by Bell Gable Stable.

Fun Notion—$93,940
b.g., Great Notion—Hot Fun, by Latent Heat; shown in Class I by Randy and Gary Ridgely.

Pay Zone—$92,777
b.g., Mosler—Keep Right, by Street Cry-Ire; 1st in Class I, shown by Country Life Farm and Keep Right.

Shown in 2022—2-year-olds in 2023

Judge: Jonathan Thomas

Catahoula Moon—$155,880
dk.b./br.c., Golden Lad—Access to the Moon, by Malibu Moon; shown in Class I by Sabrina Moore and Walt Vieser. *In 2023:* Won Maryland Million Nursery S, 2nd Maryland Juvenile Championship S

Just Great—$90,000
b.f., Great Notion—Just Desserts, by Outflanker; shown in Class III by The Stables at Mezza Luna Farm.

Viennese Waltz—$58,828
b.f., Honor Code—Tanca, by Polish Numbers; shown in Class IV by Katy Voss.

Miss Harriett—$58,000
gr./ro.f., Blofeld—Tejano Sea, by Sea of Secrets; shown in Class III by David Baxter.
In 2023: Won Maryland Million Lassie S

Owned and bred by Hillwood Stable, Washington, D.C. 4. dk.b./br.f., 4/21/23, Flameaway—Smile Big, by Big Drama. Owned and bred by James Steele Jr., Westminster, Md. 5. dk.b./br.f., 3/29/23, Liam's Map—Dazzle'm, by Super Saver. Owned and bred by Dark Hollow Farm, David and Alena Schwaber, Dorsey Brown and Arnold and Susie Davidov, Upperco, Md.

Champion—b.c., The Factor—Silver Sides, by Bandbox. Owned and bred by Dark Hollow Farm and Hillwood Stable, Upperco, Md.

Reserve Champion—
b.f., Honor A. P.—Bread and Butter, by Pure Prize. Owned and bred by Dark Hollow Farm, Upperco, Md.

Northview Stallion Station Get-of-Sire trophy—
BLOFELD. Presented to the Maryland stallion whose offspring earn the most points based on: five for first, three (second), two (third), one (fourth) and a half (fifth). The champion earns two and the reserve one.

The following stallions earned points: Blofeld, 8 points (five shown); Great Notion, 5 points (two shown); Divining Rod, 4 points (seven shown); Irish War Cry, 3 points (one shown); Golden Lad, 2 points (two shown); Holy Boss, 1 point (one shown).

Groom's Awards: Class I, #33, Alice Peirce; Class II, #34, Alice Peirce; Class III, #51, Marshall Silverman; Class IV, #17, John Foster; Championship class, #27, Jenna Isennock (champion); #57, Sallyellen Hurst (reserve).

Amateur judging contest:
Kathryn Southard and Robert Hunt.

Registration questions? Membership inquiries? Member benefits questions?

Call Emily at the MHBA office

410.252.2100 ext. 129

Isennock makes impact on yearling show

Around mid-July every year at the Maryland Horse Breeders Association yearling show at the Timonium Fairgrounds, a few constants make it truly unique – be it overwhelmingly hot and steamy weather, people disagreeing with the judge's picks, causing them to lose the amateur judging award, or children in line at the ice cream truck asking parents to buy their favorite flavor.

To others, another constant seems to never change. That would be the inevitable presence of Jenna Isennock, an assistant manager for various successful horse farms in Maryland, doing one of two things. She either wins multiple grooms' prizes, a horse she handles wins a class and/or takes the prize as grand or reserve champion.

Isennock would continue that trend into 2024, and the 90th edition of the Maryland Horse Breeders yearling show, again taking home honors.

With her dominance each year in grooms' awards, as well as honors for the horses she shows being more than plentiful, many assume Isennock comes from a long line of family members deeply entrenched in the Thoroughbred industry and its culture. This, however, is far from the truth.

"My family are totally not horse people, kind of out of left field for them," Isennock said. "Eventually, they got me lessons and I kind of never left the barn, let's say."

This introduction and peek inside the Thoroughbred industry would come from two of the most successful and influential breeders in the region: David and JoAnn Hayden of Dark Hollow Farm.

"In high school, I got my first horse job actually with the Haydens at Dark Hollow Farm, and working with Thoroughbreds kind of put my foot in the door in the racing industry," Isennock said. "And again, I just haven't left. The Haydens are great; they're so kind and welcoming. I just remember being a 16-year-old, kind of nervous, at my first real job interview and hoping that I might be good enough that they would let me work with their horses. So I went in, and they seemed to see something they liked in me, and they let me work with them."

This push into the industry by the Haydens would ultimately prove to be a home-run decision for all involved, as Isennock would be one of the best handlers at the yearling show, year in and year out, showing class champions one after the other. As Isennock put it, this success doesn't come down to her but to the horses she handles, which deal with the pressure of a new and sometimes overwhelming environment.

Jenna Issenock shows her third consecutive MHBA Yearling Show Grand Champion for Dark Hollow Farm.

"You think you know who's going to be the champion and can go down the road and be a champion racehorse regardless of how well they do at the yearling show, but I am flattered that every year the Haydens or Mrs. [Ellen] Charles ask to put me on certain horses because they think I will do the best, and showing off everything they have," Isennock said. "Sometimes with horses, yes, they're put together correctly, and they've got all the physical qualities that make them a good racehorse, but then there's always that little something, especially in the face of doing something different for the first time because a lot of these yearlings, they've never gone to a show ring and had to walk around."

The future might look different for Isennock as Marathon Farm, where she was recently the manager, closed. However, one thing is for sure, Isennock isn't going anywhere.

"The future definitely holds horses in it," she said. "I just haven't quite figured out what that is going to look like yet."

– Ali Çetinok

Maryland-bred Stakes Winners

Malibu Beauty surprises in the Caesar's Wish

More than a year and a half after taking the Carousel Stakes at Laurel, ZWP Stable and Non Stop Stable's 6-year-old homebred Malibu Beauty recorded her fifth stakes win in Laurel's $100,000 Caesar's Wish Aug. 4.

The veteran stakes performer, who came in off a 4¼-length allowance victory July 24 at Delaware Park, was overlooked at 9-1 despite finishing third or better in nine of 17 starts at Laurel. With J.G. Torrealba up, she took command from the outset of the 1 1/16-mile race, going an easy opening quarter-mile in 25 seconds.

Still in front after a half in :49.05, Malibu Beauty was challenged by Saddle Up Jessie midway around the far turn and lost the lead, but surged back and kicked home to win by 2¾ lengths in 1:45 over the fast track.

It was the 11th win in 37 starts (she also has 14 placings) for the daughter of the late Northview Stallion Station sire Buffum, and pushed her earnings to $693,699. She has won or placed in 12 stakes, with additional victories in the 2021 Miss Disco at Pimlico and 2022 Peach Blossom and George Rosenberger Memorial at Delaware. The last time she hit the board in a stakes was when third in the Twixt at Laurel last September.

Malibu Beauty is one of 11 winners from as many starters for the 23-year-old Malibu Moon mare Slow and Steady, seven of them stakes performers. Others include 2010 Maryland-bred juvenile champion Steady Warrior (Cherokee's Boy), stakes winner Steady N Love (Not For Love) and stakes-placed Lucky in Malibu (Lookin At Lucky), Hanky Doodle (Cherokee's Boy), Who Dat Boy (Cherokee's Boy) and Fast Tracked (Cross Traffic). Steady N Love is the dam of ZWP Stable and Non Stop Stable's stakes winner Shackled Love.

Slow and Steady produced a filly by Great Notion in 2023 and delivered a colt by Game Winner May 9. ❧

Fulmineo wins second stakes in a row

Starlight Racing and Mark Grier's Fulmineo finished best in the field of seven to take the first stakes of the Colonial Downs meet, the inaugural $125,000 Boston Stakes, for 3-year-olds on the turf July 13.

The 1-mile Boston was run over a soft course, as was Fulmineo's previous outing, Pimlico's James Murphy Stakes at the same distance on Preakness Day, May 18.

Trained by Arnaud Delacour, the even-money favorite settled for Victor Carrasco to the inside near the back of a bunched field, as stablemate Class Photo set the pace through splits of :24.61 and :49.10.

Turning for home, Fulmineo shifted outside of fellow late kicker Crystal Quest and made a charge. They caught new leader In a Jam in midstretch and from there it was a fight to the finish, with Fulmineo surging past late to win by a half-length. The final time was 1:37.10. It was a repeat of the Murphy, in which Fulmineo defeated Crystal Quest by 2¼ lengths.

Purchased by Starlight and Grier for $90,000 at the 2022 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga yearling sale, Fulmineo pushed his earnings to $254,275, with three wins, four seconds and a third in 10 starts. Last year, he finished second in the Grade 2 Pilgrim at Aqueduct, and this year was second in Tampa Bay's Columbia Stakes. In seven turf starts, he has three wins and three seconds; his only time off the board was when beaten 5 ½ lengths in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf-G1 at Santa Anita.

The son of Bolt d'Oro was bred by Country Life Farm and Starr of Quality. He is the first foal out of Starr of Quality, purchased by Country Life, with Fulmineo in utero, for $72,000 at the 2020 Keeneland November sale.

Stakes-winning Starr of Quality (by First Dude), is also the dam of an unnamed 2-year-old filly by Gun Runner who sold for $775,000 at last summer's Saratoga yearling sale. She has a yearling colt by Improbable and delivered a Cyberknife colt in April. ❧

She's My Niece leads all the way in Chantilly

She's My Niece went to the front and never looked back in the $50,000 Chantilly Stakes at Assiniboia Downs in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, June 24, taking the 6-furlong affair for 3-year-old fillies by 1½ lengths.

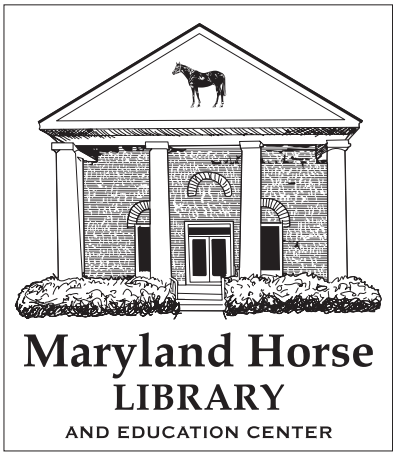
The daughter of Hard Spun entered the race off a dead-heat victory in the Slinky Overnight Stakes at Assiniboia three weeks earlier. She went off as the 3-1 third choice in the eight-horse field, with Zorina, with whom she shared a win in her previous start, the 13-10 public choice.

She's My Niece was immediately asked for speed by Damario Bynoe. She responded in kind, dropping to the rail and taking the lead in the first eighth of a mile. She built up a 1½-length lead through a first quarter in :23.69, and began to open up as they rounded the turn, leading by 3 lengths with a quarter-mile to go. Zorina gave chase, but proved no better than second, as She's My Niece hit the wire as much the best. The final time over a fast track was 1:13.20.

The Chantilly was She's My Niece's third win in a 16-race career and 11th on-the-board finish, and boosted her career earnings to $122,512. She was claimed by Kane Kachur, who co-owns her with Sharyn Houle, for $32,000 out of a 9½-length maiden win at Santa Anita Park Jan. 1, in which she became the first Maryland-bred to win a race in 2024. At the start of the Assiniboia meet the third week of May, she shipped from Turf Paradise and was transferred to current trainer Jared Brown.

Bred by Glenangus Farm, She's My Niece is the second foal, and first winner, out of the Afleet Alex mare Anydayismyday. She sold as a yearling at the 2022 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky sale for $50,000 to Tari Brocklebank.

Glenangus spent $155,000 to purchase Anydayismyday, in foal to Good Magic, at the 2019 Keeneland November breeding stock sale – the filly she was carrying, Champlain's Dream, brought $90,000 at the 2021 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic yearling sale. The mare's most recent reported foal is a yearling colt by Paynter. ❧



What's happening at the library

On the calendar at the Maryland Horse Library and Education Center:

Monday, Sept. 16, 4 p.m. Maryland's One-of-a-Kind Horse Industry Board

A Bender Educational Series event discuss how the structure of Maryland's government sets the state's horse industry apart from any other. Maryland's Secretary of Agriculture Kevin Atticks, Shelia Curry, head of the Maryland Horse Industry Board, and Anne Litz, field marketing specialist, will explain Maryland's horse industry board.

Monday, Sept. 23, 5 p.m. Biomechanics of the Equestrian Partnership

Veteran rider Betsy LaBelle has spent years training with renowned riders Sebastian Heinze and German 1972 Olympic silver medalist Karin Schluter to understand how the horse and rider's physicality influence each other. Through a detailed discussion on the biomechanics of the horse and rider, learn how focusing on equine and human anatomy can improve the equestrian partnership.

Monday, Oct. 28, 4 p.m. Handicapping Horse Racing 101: Learn to Pick Winners

Just in time for the Breeders' Cup. Want to join in the fun at the track, but don't know where to start? Racing analyst Frank Vespe, publisher of *The Racing Biz*, will host a panel of handicappers who will teach the basics of handicapping horse racing. Learn how to analyze past performances, and discover longshots.

Maryland Fund Stakes Recaps

Play Harder

Star de Naskra Stakes
$75,000-guaranteed, 7 fur.,
registered Maryland-bred or sired
3-year-olds. Laurel Park, June 29.

B.c., 2021, Outwork—Miss Manatee, by Smarty Jones. Bred by Maria Haire; owned by Rising Sun Racing Stables; trained by Claudio Gonzalez. Foaled at Northview Stallion Station, Chesapeake City, Md.

				Lifetime
starts	*1st*	*2nd*	*3rd*	*earnings*
7	5 (1)	0	1	$177,895 (through July 28)

2024: 1st $75,000 **Star de Naskra S**, 7 fur., registered Md.-bred or sired 3-year-olds, Laurel, June 29.

Play Harder has a reputation for getting involved in dramatic finishes, and he maintained that reputation in the Star de Naskra Stakes June 29 at Laurel, where he crossed the wire second by a nose, but was elevated to first thanks to a disqualification.

The Star de Naskra for 3-year-olds marked his stakes debut. He had won four of his previous five starts, with his last three victories coming by less than a length. In his only defeat, he was third, beaten three-quarters of a length. He went off as the 9-2 second choice in the eight-horse Star de Naskra field, with undefeated Quint's Brew sent away as the overwhelming 3-5 favorite.

Play Harder began well from post four and rated close to the pace, while Haileysfirstnotion set a largely uncontested first quarter in :22.95. Approaching the far turn, Quint's Brew and Celtic Contender made their moves, while Play Harder remained in fourth, 5¼ lengths back.

Celtic Contender opened a 2½-length lead with a furlong to go. Play Harder found his best stride late and chipped away at the margin under J.G. Torrealba. The two hit the wire together, covering 7 furlongs on a fast track in 1:23.93.

The camera revealed that Celtic Contender won by a nose. The inquiry sign went up not long after and the stewards determined that Celtic Contender caused crowding when crossing over after leaving the chute. As such, he was disqualified and placed second, with Play Harder moved to first.

Play Harder improved to 5-0-1 in six starts – he returned July 28 to finish fourth in Laurel's Concern Stakes, to push his earnings to $177,895.

Owned by Rising Sun Racing Stable and trained by Claudio Gonzalez, the bay was bred by Maria Haire, and is by Outwork out of the Smarty Jones mare Miss Manatee. Haire purchased Play Harder's third dam, graded stakes winner Ms. Mostly, for $80,000 at the 2006 OBS Fall mixed sale, and campaigned second dam Ms. Moscow and Miss Manatee. Miss Manatee has produced two winners from as many foals of racing age. In addition to Play Harder, she's also produced four-time winner Kingdom (Golden Lad). Her most recent foal, a filly by Mystic Guide, was foaled May 5.

Alla Breve

Jameela Stakes
$75,000-guaranteed, 6 fur.,
turf, registered Maryland-bred or sired
fillies and mares, 3 & up.
Laurel Park, July 14.

Ch.f., 2020, Mendelssohn—Split It, by Curlin. Bred by Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds; owned by Runnymoore Racing; trained by Michael Matz. Foaled at Sycamore Hall, Chesapeake City, Md.

				Lifetime
starts	*1st*	*2nd*	*3rd*	*earnings*
10	4 (1)	1	1	$169,120 (through July 14)

2024: 1st $75,000 **Jameela S**, 6 fur., turf, registered Md.-bred or sired fillies and mares, 3 & up, Laurel, July 14.

Runnymoore Racing's Alla Breve emerged the winner over nine other Maryland-bred fillies and mares in the $75,000 Jameela Stakes at 6 furlongs on the Laurel Park grass on a steamy July 14.

Sent out by Michael Matz for her stakes debut in her 10th start, eight on the turf, Alla Breve went off as fifth choice at 8-1. The West Coast-based Kissed by Fire, a daughter of Friesan Fire who built a solid allowance resume in California with trainer Peter Eurton, was the 3-2 favorite.

Last year's Maryland-bred champion 3-year-old filly Bosserati, seeking her first win in more than a year but just missing in her prior outing, the Goodwood Stakes at Mon-

mouth, broke quickly and went for the lead. Pressed on her outside by Kissed by Fire while Speightful Sis saved ground to her inside, Bosserati cut opening splits of :22.94 and :45.95 while Alla Breve and Horacio Karamanos were found nearly 12 lengths back.

Still leading by a slim margin as the field turned for home, Bosserati was all out to repel new challenger Hollywood Walk as Kissed by Fire gave way. Karamanos swung Alla Breve out at the top of the stretch and took aim at the leaders. Accelerating down the middle of the course, the chestnut filly gobbled up ground while Bosserati held on. Hollywood Walk caught Bosserati late, but Alla Breve kept coming and, even while switching leads multiple times, got to the wire in time. The winning margin was a head over Hollywood Walk, with Bosserati a neck back in third. The final time over the firm turf was 1:09.15.

The 4-year-old daughter of Mendelssohn earned her second straight victory after a comeback triumph in an open 5½-furlong Laurel Park allowance June 14. Now a four-time winner, all at Laurel, she broke her maiden in her only start at 2 and was an allowance winner at 3. The 6-furlong distance of the Jameela was her longest effort to date.

"She's been a tough little filly for us," Matz said. "We're quite happy with the way she's come around this year. We ran her a couple times in Florida and then gave her a bit of a break and she's come back and has been kind of rewarding us for the break we gave her."

One of the top-priced fillies at the 2021 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale when purchased by Caroline and Greg Bentley for $160,000 for their Runnymoore Racing, Alla Breve has earnings of $169,120.

"We got her down at the Timonium sale and one of the reasons we did is because she was a Maryland-bred," Matz said. "We thought we were stepping up a little bit here and she handled this. She has been training well at home and she worked well last week, and we wanted to give her this opportunity."

Alla Breve is the fourth foal bred by Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds out of Split It, a winning daughter of Curlin purchased by Richard Golden for $67,000 at the 2016 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky February mixed sale. A half-sister to Grade 3 winner Shared Property and multiple stakes winner Whiskey Romeo, Split It is out of stakes winner Yoursmineours; her second dam is a half-sister to champion Epitome (dam of multimillionaire Essence of Dubai).

Split It has three winners from her first four foals. She produced a Hoppertunity filly in 2022 and a Mendelssohn colt last year before being sold in December at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic mixed sale for $14,000 while in foal to Great Notion. She delivered a colt in April for Tom and Chris Bowman. ❧

Whenigettoheaven

Ben's Cat Stakes

$75,000-guaranteed, 6 fur., turf, registered Maryland-bred or sired, 3 & up. Laurel Park, July 14.

B.g., 2019, Street Magician—Heaven Knows What, by Holy Bull. Bred by R. Larry Johnson; owned by Ken Ramsey; trained by Nolan Ramsey. Foaled at Roland Farm, Chestertown, Md.

	Lifetime			
starts	*1st*	*2nd*	*3rd*	*earnings*
21	5 (1)	4	5 (1)	$280,665 (through July 14)

2023: 3rd **Maryland Million Turf Sprint S**. **2024:** 1st $75,000 **Ben's Cat S**, 6 fur., turf, registered Md.-bred or sired, 3 & up, Laurel, July 14.

Carrying the colors of Eclipse Award-winning owner Ken Ramsey, 7-10 favorite Whenigettoheaven battled Tidewater the length of the Laurel turf course stretch and prevailed to win the Ben's Cat Stakes by a neck for his first career stakes victory July 14.

One of nine in the field of Maryland-breds going 6 furlongs over a firm turf, Whenigettoheaven tailed Tidewater from the start through an opening quarter in :22.68 and a half in :45.36.

With J.G. Torrealba aboard, Whenigettoheaven tipped to the outside entering the stretch. Tidewater proved tough, but Whenigettoheaven was relentless to reach the wire in a final time of 1:08.26.

The win provided 27-year-old trainer Nolan Ramsey with his first stakes victory. Ramsey took over the training of the 5-year-old son of Street Magician for his grandfather after Whenigettoheaven was claimed for $62,500 at Gulfstream Park in March from breeder Larry Johnson. The young trainer sent the bay gelding out for two wins in two starts at Laurel, the other a 5½-furlong turf allowance June 7 by 2½ lengths.

"We knew we were coming up here so we were keeping an eye out for some Maryland-breds," said Ramsey, a former assistant to trainer Mike Maker who started his first horse April 20 at Gulfstream Park. "He had some back class and had been running really good races, so we took a shot with him. He's really come around for us."

Ramsey was presented with the winner's trophy by 91-year-old Hall of Fame horseman King Leatherbury, who bred, owned and trained Ben's Cat.

"It was an honor to be in the winner's circle with him," Ramsey said. "They don't come any better than Ben's Cat. It was kind of a cool win, especially for the history of Maryland and my first year up here. It's special for me, too."

Whenigettoheaven adds his name to the legacy of Johnson's foundation broodmare Ran's Chick, behind the newest stakes winner's sire and dam. Former Maryland stallion Street Magician descends from Ran's Chick's daughter Special Kell, the same branch of the family as Belmont Stakes-G1 runnerup Mindframe, 2024 stakes winners Future Is Now and Call Another Play, and Hollywood Walk, who finished second in the Politely Stakes three races before the Ben's Cat.

Heaven Knows What, a multiple stakes-winning daughter of Holy Bull, has produced seven foals of racing age – her six to start are all winners, three six-figure earners. Whenigettoheaven is her fourth foal, and her first stakes winner. Third in last year's Maryland Million Turf Sprint for Johnson, Whenigettoheaven now has a record of 21-5-4-5 for earnings of $280,665.

Descending from the Whatwouldhappenif branch of the family, Heaven Knows What was sold, in foal to Upstart, at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December sale in 2021. Her 2-year-old Upstart colt, foaled in Florida and named Start to Win, has been working steadily at Ellis Park. ❧

Miss Harriett

Miss Disco Stakes

$75,000-guaranteed, 7 fur., registered Maryland-bred or sired 3-year-old fillies. Laurel Park, July 21.

Gr./ro.f., 2021, Blofeld—Tejano Sea, by Sea of Secrets. Bred by David Baxter; owned by Narrow Leaf Farm; trained by Brandon McFarlane. Foaled at Murmur Farm, Darlington, Md.

	Lifetime			
starts	*1st*	*2nd*	*3rd*	*earnings*
9	4 (3)	0	1 (1)	$215,310 (through July 21)

2023: 1st $100,000 **Maryland Million Lassie S**, 6 fur., 2-year-old fillies sired by eligible Md. stallions, Laurel, Oct. 14. **2024:** 1st $100,000 **Wide Country S**, 7 fur., 3-year-old fillies, Laurel, Feb. 24; $100,000 **Miss Disco S**, 7 fur., registered Md.-bred or sired 3-year-old fillies, Laurel, July 21; 3rd **Weber City Miss S**.

Narrow Leaf Farm's Miss Harriett returned a winner in state-bred competition in the $75,000 Miss Disco Stakes for 3-year-old Maryland-bred fillies at Laurel Park July 21.

One of four starters in the 7-furlong Miss Disco, Miss Harriett dashed to the front and set all the fractions. Under Forest Boyce, she completed the first quarter in :22.53 and the half in :45.75 with Overly Dramatic and slight favorite Daughter of Time in pursuit. Daughter of Time moved up to second after the half, but entering the stretch, Miss Harriett showed her talent

and began to edge away, completing the distance in 1:25.14.

Go Sherry Go rallied to get second, 2¼ lengths behind the winner and 1¼ lengths ahead of Daughter of Time.

It was the gray filly's fourth win – all at Laurel, three in stakes – in nine attempts for owner-breeder David Baxter and trainer Brandon McFarlane. She now has earnings of $215,310.

"[It was] just [a matter of] getting back to her home ground and giving her a little bit of an easier trip than some of the company she'd been facing," Baxter said of his filly who ran in stakes at Aqueduct and Pimlico and faced open company at Laurel since March. "I think she's proven that she likes 7 furlongs. It actually might even be a little better than going shorter."

The daughter of Blofeld and the Sea of Secrets mare Tejano Sea launched her career last October with a 62-1 upset of the Maryland Million Lassie. In her first two starts at 3, she won an allowance and the Wide Country Stakes, the latter also at 7 furlongs.

Miss Harriett is a half-sister to 2012 Maryland Million Nursery winner Keep Momma Happy (Scipion), who also won on Maryland Million Day as a first-time starter, graded stakes-placed Hemp (Super Ninety Nine) and stakes-placed In Arrears (Scipion).

They are four of Tejano Sea's nine foals, all winners. Purchased by Edmund Baxter for $27,000 at the 2006 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic summer 2-year-old sale, the 20-year-old mare hasn't produced a foal since Miss Harriett. ❧

October is Horse Month in Maryland!

Maryland's horse industry is center stage locally and internationally!

The Capital Challenge Horse Show
September 26 - October 6, 2024 Prince George's Equestrian Center
capitalchallenge.org

Celebration of the Horse
Oct 5, 2024 Tuckahoe Equestrian Center
tuckahoeequestriancenter.com

State/National Jousting Championships
State Oct, 5, 2024 Crownsville, National Oct. 12, 2024 Knoxville
marylandjousting.com

Jim McKay Maryland Million Day
Oct. 12, 2024 Laurel Park
marylandmillion.com

MARS Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill
Oct. 17-20, 2024 Fair Hill
maryland5star.us

Washington International Horse Show
Oct 21-27, 2024 Prince George's Equestrian Center
wihs.org

Horse Discovery Centers
Want to meet a horse? Contact the HDC closest to you!
MDA.maryland.gov/horseboard/Pages/horse_board.aspx

MarylandHorse.com/maryland-horse-month

Maryland Fund Report

Bonuses paid for races run
in April 2024 at Maryland tracks

Breeder bonuses

Includes the additional 10 percent Maryland-sired bonus for winners of maiden races, initiated Jan. 1 during the 2022 Laurel winter meet. That bonus is reflected in the second figure earned for the race.

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc.—Nick's Little Boy: April 14, 5th race, $2,092.50. She'sarollingstone: April 26, 8th race, $1,192.50. Vance Scholars: April 13, 10th race, $2,250. ($5,535)

Barak Farm—Always Forward: April 5, 3rd race, $495. Enemynumbernine: April 28, 1st race, $1,057.50. Hateful: April 28, 3rd race, $1,845. ($3,397.50)

Barak Farm and Dinos Thoroughbreds LLC—Trash Talkin Larry: April 5, 2nd race, $2,970.

David Baxter Sr.—Miss Harriett: April 20, 8th race, $2,250.

William Bayne and Super C Racing—Burningupthedough: April 13, 7th race, $4,455.

BB Horses—Ladro Di Fichi: April 13, 11th race, $2,092.50.

Paul W. Berube, Karen Linnell and Spinnaker Hill Farm—Quint's Brew: April 5, 8th race, $6,615.

Charles Blanford—Momma's Lino: April 27, 4th race, $495.

David Benjamin Bloom—Easter Sunday Girl: April 26, 9th race, $495.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman—Blue Kingdom: April 6, 7th race, $2,115. Lilly Lightning: April 19, 1st race, $4,455. ($6,570)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman—Feelin So Lucky: April 20, 1st race, $1,485.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Rebecca Davis—Nami: April 7, 1st race, $495. Shady Munni: April 7, 7th race, $6,480. ($6,975)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Shawn M. Howser—Bourbon Wildcat: April 12, 1st race, $652.50.

Dennis A. Cardoza—Captain Cardo: April 7, 6th race, $900.

Wes Carter—Had to Have Him: April 21, 8th race, $1,102.50.

Clover Hill Farm Inc.—Mucho Tigger: April 5, 6th race, $922.50.

Angela B. Coombs—Catahoula Moon: April 7, 4th race, $6,615.

Country Life Farm and Basedonatruestory LLC—Sheherhers: April 6, 2nd race, $2,970; April 19, 1st race, $742.50. ($3,712.50)

Country Life Farm and Fleet and Fancy LLC—Next Girl: April 14, 2nd race, $742.50.

Country Life Farm, Sue Ann Mancilla and Susan Scheffres—Divine Child: April 28, 9th race, $2,970/$990. ($3,960)

Country Life Farm and Starr of Quality LLC—Fulmineo: April 19, 5th race, $2,205.

Country Life Farm and Winding Creek Farm—Luv Ya Bye Bye: April 14, 5th race, $697.50.

Country Roads Ltd.—My Flicker: April 7, 8th race, $7,560. Sports Editor: April 19, 5th race, $6,615. Utterly Enchanting: April 21, 1st race, $3,240. ($17,415)

Daniel C. Crowley and Non Stop Stable—Haileysfirstnotion: April 27, 1st race, $6,345/$2,115. ($8,460)

Dark Hollow Farm—Pudd'n N Pie: April 12, 10th race, $2,970.

Dark Hollow Farm, D. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. David Schwaber, et al—Destination: April 6, 5th race, $1,057.50.
David M. DiPietro—One Way Traffic: April 28, 7th race, $2,160.
George L. Doetsch—Goldrush Hottie: April 7, 3rd race, $742.50; April 26, 3rd race, $4,455/$1,485. ($6,682.50)
Hassan Elamri—Golden Can: April 26, 2nd race, $1,080.
Annette Eubanks and Daniel Eubanks—Band Camp: April 26, 1st race, $3,510.
FinaleFarm, Mr/Mrs D.David Moose and Lone Pond Farm LLC—Mr. Houghton: April 21, 3rd race, $1,170.
Finn's Nickel LLC and Anchor and Hope Farm Inc—Exculpatory: April 27, 8th race, $1,260.
Flying H Stables LLC—Conceptualize: April 13, 5th race, $1,845.
Paul L. Fowler Jr.—Intrepid Dream: April 13, 4th race, $13,500.
Glenangus Farm LLC—Riccio: April 27, 5th race, $1,080.
Sergio Gomez—Lunita: April 6, 4th race, $900.
Green Mount Farm—Takethefifth: April 27, 3rd race, $2,115.
Maria M. Haire—Noah Chance: April 19, 2nd race, $1,665. Play Harder: April 7, 4th race, $1,102.50; April 28, 7th race, $6,480. Stormy Midnight: April 7, 3rd race, $4,455. ($13,702.50)
Hillwood Stable LLC—Foggy Dew: April 27, 6th race, $1,845. The Band Runs On: April 12, 6th race, $6,345/$2,115; April 28, 7th race, $1,080. ($11,385)
Kyle Horlacher—Crabs N Beer: April 27, 5th race, $4,320.
Kyle M. Horlacher and Charles Blanford—I Had Enough: April 7, 9th race, $2,970/$990; April 26, 4th race, $990. ($4,950)
Jagger Inc.—Chickieness: April 12, 9th race, $1,192.50. Kick Startness: April 6, 6th race, $2,970/$990. Little Lance: April 13, 7th race, $1,485. Speedyness: April 20, 10th race, $4,500. ($11,137.50)
Jagger Inc. and Super C Racing Inc.—Derbyness: April 20, 4th race, $922.50.
R. Larry Johnson—Call Another Play: April 20, 8th race, $13,500. Come Rain Or Shine: April 20, 11th race, $2,115. Energy Efficient: April 14, 4th race, $4,455. Great Heavens: April 5, 7th race, $1,080. Heldish: April 5, 7th race, $2,160. ($23,310)
Harry Kassap LLC—Atlas Strong: April 19, 9th race, $1,102.50.
Carol A. Kaye—Elon: April 27, 3rd race, $1,057.50.
Steven D. Keil and Caitlin Keil—Aliferous: April 19, 3rd race, $2,970.
Gordon Keys—Grateful Bred: April 28, 6th race, $1,192.50.
Toni M. Kirwan and Edward Hipps—Minxzluckystarfyre: April 12, 4th race, $5,535/$1,845. ($7,380)
Lady Olivia at North Cliff LLC—My Asian Lover: April 19, 10th race, $585. Never Grew Up: April 5, 5th race, $495. ($1,080)
Carl Lanier—Box N Ben: April 21, 3rd race, $585.
Lewis Family Racing Stable—Hunter Joe: April 19, 2nd race, $4,995.
Cal Lynch, Dr. Tom Keenan and Spendthrift Farm—Under the Overpass: April 6, 6th race, $990.
Magic Carpet Racing—Buckin' Lucky: April 26, 9th race, $990.
Estate of Robert T. Manfuso—Imaginetheodds: April 7, 3rd race, $1,485.
Robert T. Manfuso and Katharine M. Voss—Only Child: April 5, 2nd race, $495.
Marathon Farm Inc.—Abuelo Paps: April 12, 7th race, $1,170.
Haralabos Maravelias—Nico Lucky: April 6, 3rd race, $585.
Daniel E. Marconi—Bella Bettina: April 12, 9th race, $7,155.
Helen C. Marshall—Take Charge Too: April 21, 7th race, $6,615.
Maryland Mare Venture LLC—Ellie Victorina: April 14, 10th race, $2,970.
Peter D. Mattson—Angelofcanterbury: April 13, 6th race, $6,480.
MCA Racing Stable LLC—A B C Ya: April 28, 9th race, $990.
Charles C.D. McGill—Disputed Claim: April 21, 7th race, $2,205.
James F. McIngvale—Restless: April 21, 5th race, $922.50.
Mezza Luna Farm LLC—In the Dance: April 20, 4th race, $1,845.
Mike Dalton LLC—Sneaking Suspicion: April 20, 11th race, $6,345/$2,115. ($8,460)
Mikelle Farm—True Sunshine: April 5, 6th race, $5,535.
Bryan B Minnich—King's River: April 21, 5th race, $1,845.
Kevin P. Morgan—Rahmer: April 14, 5th race, $348.75.
Murmur Farm—Celtic Bond: April 26, 3rd race, $1,485. Golden Charm: April 13, 6th race, $2,160. ($3,645)
No Guts No Glory Farm—Bandits Warrior: April 6, 4th race, $2,700; April 21, 1st race, $1,080. Dream River: April 5, 5th race, $2,970. Fuhgeddaboudit: April 12, 9th race, $2,385. Irish Bandit: April 13, 7th race, $742.50. Irish Hero: April 12, 6th race, $1,057.50; April 27, 6th race, $922.50. Mama G's Wish: April 12, 1st race, $3,915. Remember Me: April 14, 1st race, $3,510. ($19,282.50)
Northview Stallion Station Inc.—Uncle Chinito: April 7, 9th race, $495; April 28, 9th race, $495. ($990)
Clarke Ohrstrom—Dead Sexy: April 13, 5th race, $922.50. Jardani: April 7, 7th race, $1,080. ($2,002.50)
A. Leonard Pineau—Crossland: April 7, 7th race, $2,160.
Dr. and Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau—Rapidity: April 14, 6th race, $922.50.
Cynthia K. Rickman—Casino Tricks: April 6, 1st race, $990. Crownedcountcristo: April 6, 10th race, $742.50; April 13, 1st race, $2,700; April 27, 9th race, $371.25. ($4,803.75)
Rolling Meadows Farm—Brooklyn Girl: April 13, 6th race, $1,080. Confluence Lassie: April 12, 10th race, $990. ($2,070)
Timothy J. Rooney—Money's Worth: April 28, 8th race, $2,385.
Franklin G. Smith Sr.—Looking for Water: April 27, 2nd race, $495.
Matt Spencer and Kelly Cox—Ain't Da Beer Cold: April 13, 10th race, $13,500.
Sugarland LLC Equine Etiquette—The Last Jumpstart: April 6, 3rd race, $1,170; April 21, 3rd race, $3,510. ($4,680)
Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—Addy's Laddy T N T: April 20, 3rd race, $3,240. Northern Glow: April 19, 9th race, $2,205. ($5,445)
Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC and Ellen Charles—Society Ball: April 6, 9th race, $6,615.
Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC and Two Legends Farm—Titian Tyrant: April 7, 1st race, $990.
James F. Thames—Irish Warlock: April 12, 7th race, $585.
The Elkstone Group LLC—Jay: April 14, 6th race, $5,535. Order Ofthe Kettle: April 5, 7th race, $6,480. Solving Progress: April 20, 1st race, $742.50. The Addison Pour: April 21, 6th race, $1,192.50. Vax a Nation: April 27, 5th race, $4,320. ($18,270)
Thornmar Farm LLC—Just the Thing: April 5, 9th race, $990. Lucky Honey: April 26, 3rd race, $742.50. Something Silly: April 26, 9th race, $2,970. Thataway: April 6, 1st race, $495. ($5,197.50)
2500 Determined Holdings—Determind Princess: April 6, 5th race, $6,345.
Two Legends Farm and Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—Amie's Symphony: April 6, 5th race, $2,115.
David H. Wade—Rominski: April 14, 9th race, $7,155; April 27, 8th race, $7,560. ($14,715)
Maureen Wade—Honor the Truth: April 5, 3rd race, $2,970.
Dr. and Mrs. Bruce C. Wells—Rascally Rebel: April 19, 3rd race, $495.
John E. Williamson III—Stickwiththecolors: April 13, 2nd race, $1,102.50.
Mrs. Frank P. Wright—Cannon's Roar: April 27, 7th race, $652.50.
WWCD LLC—Mattitude: April 21, 1st race, $540.

Maryland-bred top earners in 2024

(through August 19)

1.	Post Time	$685,000	
2.	Mindframe	647,360	
3.	Jaxon Traveler	281,799	
4.	Future Is Now	260,930	
5.	Call Another Play	212,815	
6.	Rominski	198,390	
7.	Fulmineo	192,095	
8.	Malibu Beauty	181,865	
9.	Miss Harriett	157,310	
10.	Play Harder	153,055	
11.	Golden Charm	$150,550	
12.	Studlydoright	149,930	
13.	Band Camp	133,030	
14.	Arden'sluckytobe	132,300	
15.	Crabs N Beer	132,130	
16.	Speedyness	129,810	
17.	Freeze the Fire	121,290	
18.	Take a Hint	119,005	
19.	King's River	118,830	
20.	My Flicker	117,180	

Stallion bonuses

BANDBOX (Band Camp: April 26, 1st race, $1,170. Box N Ben: April 21, 3rd race, $195. The Band Runs On: April 12, 6th race, $2,115; April 28, 7th race, $360): Northview Stallion Station—$3,840.
BARBADOS (Hateful: April 28, 3rd race, $615): Shamrock Farm.
BLOFELD (Brooklyn Girl: April 13, 6th race, $360. Chickieness: April 12, 9th race, $397.50. Crabs N Beer: April 27, 5th race, $1,440. Golden Charm: April 13, 6th race, $720. Miss Harriett: April 20, 8th race, $750): Blofeld Syndicate—$3,667.50.
BOURBON COURAGE (Bourbon Wildcat: April 12, 1st race, $217.50. My Asian Lover: April 19, 10th race, $195. Never Grew Up: April 5, 5th race, $165. She'sarollingstone: April 26, 8th race, $397.50): Bourbon Courage Syndicate—$975.
DESPITE THE ODDS (Utterly Enchanting: April 21, 1st race, $1,080): R. Larry Johnson.
DIVINING ROD (Divine Child: April 28, 9th race, $990. Looking for Water: April 27, 2nd race, $165. Next Girl: April 14, 2nd race, $247.50. Rascally Rebel: April 19, 3rd race, $165. Sheherhers: April 6, 2nd race, $990; April 19, 1st race, $247.50. Stickwiththecolors: April 13, 2nd race, $367.50): Divining Rod Syndicate—$3,172.50.
EDITORIAL (Atlas Strong: April 19, 9th race, $367.50. Sports Editor: April 19, 5th race, $2,205): Climax Stallions LLC—$2,572.50.
FIRST MONDAYS (Blue Kingdom: April 6, 7th race, $705): First Mondays Partnership.
FORCE THE PASS (Had to Have Him: April 21, 8th race, $367.50. One Way Traffic: April 28, 7th race, $720): Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC—$1,087.50.
FREEDOM CHILD (Ain't Da Beer Cold: April 13, 10th race, $4,500): Freedom Child Syndicate.
FRIESAN FIRE (Burningupthedough: April 13, 7th race, $1,485. Shady Munni: April 7, 7th race, $2,160): Friesan Fire Syndicate—$3,645.
GOLDEN LAD (Addy's Laddy T N T: April 20, 3rd race, $1,080. Casino Tricks: April 6, 1st race, $330. Catahoula Moon: April 7, 4th race, $2,205. Crownedcountcristo: April 6, 10th race, $247.50; April 13, 1st race, $900; April 27, 9th race, $123.75. Disputed Claim: April 21, 7th race, $735. Golden Can: April 26, 2nd race, $360. Goldrush Hottie: April 7, 3rd race, $247.50; April 26, 3rd race, $1,485. I Had Enough: April 7, 9th race, $990; April 26, 4th race, $330. Just the Thing: April 5, 9th race, $330. Lunita: April 6, 4th race, $300. Nico Lucky: April 6, 3rd race, $195. Rahmer: April 14, 5th race, $116.25): Golden Lad Syndicate—$9,975.
GREAT NOTION (Elon: April 27, 3rd race, $352.50. Fuhgeddaboudit: April 12, 9th race, $795. Grateful Bred: April 28, 6th race, $397.50. Great Heavens: April 5, 7th race, $360. Haileysfirstnotion: April 27, 1st race, $2,115. Heldish: April 5, 7th race, $720. Kick Startness: April 6, 6th race, $990. Mattitude: April 21, 1st race, $180. My Flicker: April 7, 8th race, $2,520. Noah Chance: April 19, 2nd race, $555. Rominski: April 14, 9th race, $2,385; April 27, 8th race, $2,520. Sneaking Suspicion: April 20, 11th race, $2,115. Society Ball: April 6, 9th race, $2,205. Speedyness: April 20, 10th race, $1,500): Great Notion Syndicate—$19,710.
HANGOVER KID (Celtic Bond: April 26, 3rd race, $495): Hangover Kid Syndicate.
HOLY BOSS (Crossland: April 7, 7th race, $720. Dead Sexy: April 13, 5th race, $307.50. Easter Sunday Girl: April 26, 9th race, $165. Jardani: April 7, 7th race, $360. Vance Scholars: April 13, 10th race, $750): Holy Boss Syndicate.
IMAGINING (Imaginetheodds: April 7, 3rd race, $495. In the Dance: April 20, 4th race, $615. Little Lance: April 13, 7th race, $495. Remember Me: April 14, 1st race, $1,170): Imagining Syndicate—$2,775.
IRISH WAR CRY (Foggy Dew: April 27, 6th race, $615. Irish Bandit: April 13, 7th race, $247.50. Irish Hero: April 12, 6th race, $352.50; April 27, 6th race, $307.50. Irish Warlock: April 12, 7th race, $195. King's River: April 21, 5th race, $615): Northview Stallion Station Inc.—$3,332.50.
KOBE'S BACK (Trash Talkin Larry: April 5, 2nd race, $990): Bonita Farm.
LONG RIVER (Confluence Lassie: April 12, 10th race, $330. Dream River: April 5, 5th race, $990. Nick's Little Boy: April 14, 5th race, $697.50): Long River Syndicate—$2,017.50.
MADEFROMLUCKY (Buckin' Lucky: April 26, 9th race, $330. Feelin So Lucky: April 20, 1st race, $495. Lilly Lightning: April 19, 1st race, $1,485. Honey: April 26, 3rd race, $247.50. Minxzluckystarfyre: April 12, 4th race, $1,845. Only Child: April 5, 2nd race, $165. Titian Tyrant: April 7, 1st race, $330): Madefromlucky Syndicate—$4,897.50.
MOSLER (Bandits Warrior: April 6, 4th race, $900; April 21, 1st race, $360. Luv Ya Bye Bye: April 14, 5th race, $232.50. Quint's Brew: April 5, 8th race, $2,205): Mosler Syndicate—$3,697.50.
NOT ABROAD (Nami: April 7, 1st race, $165): Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman.
ORIENTATE (Cannon's Roar: April 27, 7th race, $217.50): Orientate Syndicate.
OUTFLANKER (Mama G's Wish: April 12, 1st race, $1,305): Outflanker Syndicate.
SUPER NINETY NINE (Enemynumbernine: April 28, 1st race, $352.50): Country Life Farm.

THE THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER

- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - **September 2024** -

In This Issue

A test is passed as Book'em Danno emerges as a star in Saratoga

Amatteroftime springs upset in Friendly Lover Handicap

A four-peat for He'spuregold in the Irish War Cry

Book'em Danno surges late to win Jersey Shore Stakes

Mia's Crusade scores fifth career stakes win in Jersey Girl Handicap

Holly Crest Farms homebred Riding Pretty wins Smart N Classy Handicap

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A test is passed as Book'em Danno emerges as a star in Saratoga

By Bill Finley

Bred in New Jersey by Gregory Kilka and Bright View Farm, Book'em Danno showed from the very start that he was better than the average Jersey-bred. He won four of his first five races before running second in the Group 3 Saudi Derby. The gelding was beaten that day by Forever Young, who would go on to finish a close third in the Kentucky Derby. But Book'em Danno was still in search of that signature victory on his record, the type of win that would prove he is a legitimate, Grade 1, top-class horse.

On June 8 at Saratoga during the Belmont Stakes undercard, he had that chance. The owners, a collection of friends from Jersey who race under the name of Atlantic Six Racing, and trainer Derek Ryan had decided to send the son of Bucchero to Saratoga for the Grade 1 Woody Stephens Stakes. There, he would meet some of the fastest 3-year sprinters in the country in horses like Prince of Monaco, Nash and Valentine Candy.

Could he handle the assignment? It was anyone's guess. But in the 1:21.30 it took him to get from the start to the finish line he answered every question as he beat Prince of Monaco by a half-length. So how good is he? Very good. And what about his future? It's very bright.

"It's hard to explain," said co-owner Jay Briscione. "That was the first time we even ran a horse in Saratoga and we ran in a Grade 1 stakes and we won it. I tell everybody, this is the most exciting thing that has ever happened to us besides our wives and families. I can say that for all the guys. It's been such an incredible experience. Given how well he ran in Saudi Arabia and how well Forever Young ran coming back in the Derby, running a race like the one he ran [in the Woody Stephens] justified how good a horse he is."

COGLIANESE PHOTOGRAPHY

Breaking from post one under Irad Ortiz Jr., Book'em Danno broke a step slowly but Ortiz quickly got him into the race. He was sitting comfortably in fifth as a pair of longshots were setting blazing fractions. Near the quarter-pole Book'em Danno had taken the lead and opened up by 4 lengths with an eighth of a mile to go. Prince of Monaco, the 8-5 favorite, closed and cut the winning margin to a half-length but it never looked at any point that he would get by Danno.

"When I started moving, he started finding really well on the turn," Ortiz Jr. said. "He started responding really, really good on the

continued next page

FOLLOW or LIKE **NJBREDS** *on.*

turn so that helped a lot. Turning for home, I was still in a hold, then I asked him, and he gave me a good kick at the end. That was great. He is a nice horse."

Book'em Danno earned a 100 Beyer figure going 7 furlongs. It was the first Grade 1 win by a Jersey-bred since Green Gratto won the 2017 Carter Handicap at Aqueduct.

"I am biased a little bit, but I think he proved he's the best 3-year-old in the business right now," Ryan said. "I know he hasn't gone up against those horses who go two turns, but he's the most consistent one out there. He really should be 7-for-7. This race didn't change my opinion about him. I know what he had. He's just a race horse."

Ryan worked Book'em Danno at Monmouth nine days prior to the Woody Stephens. He went in :58.20 from the gate and the trainer said the work made a huge difference and had him on go.

The trainer said he will definitely point to the $500,000 Grade 1 H. Allen Jerkens Stakes Aug. 24 at Saratoga and might find a race for him beforehand (see writeup on page 4).

One thing he will not do is to take on the heavyweights of the division in two-turn stakes like the Haskell and the Travers. After making the decision to pass the Derby, the team decided to stick to the sprint division.

"The Derby wasn't the right time or place for him," Ryan said. "The Derby is a great race, but it wasn't a good fit for him. The Derby never became an issue. We had a plan and we stuck to it.

"I'm not sure about the Breeders' Cup either. One of my main goals is to get him back to Saudi Arabia next year."

Ryan said another reason why he wants to keep Book'em Danno sprinting is that his half-sister, the stakes winner Girl Trouble, a daughter of Fast Anna, struggled when sent beyond 7 furlongs.

Briscione said he hoped other small-time owners and breeders have been following this horse. He was bought privately from the breeders, and Briscione declined to the state the price. But it couldn't have been much. Stallion Bucchero now stands for $7,500 and the dam, Adorabella, never raced. At the other end of the spectrum, runner-up Prince of Monaco, who is trained by Bob Baffert, cost $950,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale.

"The fact that we could get a horse like this should make people want to stay in the business," Briscione said. "People should want to get into the business because there's the possibility of getting a horse like this without having to spend $1 million. What we've accomplished has been incredible. It's made believers out of us."

Amatteroftime springs upset in Friendly Lover Handicap

Monmouth Park Press Release

There was nothing on paper to suggest that Amatteroftime would even be a factor in the $88,400 Friendly Lover Stakes for Jersey-breds at Monmouth Park June 9.

The 9-year-old was coming off an eight-month-plus layoff, was on a 12-race losing streak and hadn't beaten state-breds since winning the Charles Hesse III Handicap in 2021.

He was also up against a 1-20 shot in Great Navigator.

But given a rousing stretch ride by Isaac Castillo, Amatteroftime surged to the lead in the final sixteenth of a mile and went on to post a stunning upset by three-quarters of a length over No Cents. Irish Boolum was another 3 lengths back in third, with a tiring Great Navigator

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

finishing fourth in the eight-horse field.

Amatteroftime, bred by New Farm, has career earnings of $615,928.

"I think the time off had a lot to do with it," said trainer Miguel Penaloza, who is conditioning Amatteroftime for the first time in the gelding's 54-race career. "We made a few adjustments with him, changing his shoes and a couple of other small things, but I can't say I expected this. On paper Great Navigator looked unbeatable. But you just don't know in horse racing."

With stretching-out sprinter No Cents trying to steal the 1-mile race on the front end through pedestrian early fractions of :25.46 and :49.54, Castillo had Amatteroftime fifth on the outside.

Great Navigator, breaking from outside post eight, managed to get to the rail for Paco Lopez but appeared to spend all of his energy rushing up from fourth to go after No Cents' big lead late in the final turn.

Castillo had Amatteroftime outside and the son of Eskendereya managed to close into those slow early fractions as Great Navigator faded. No Cents was stubborn in defeat.

"This horse always tries and I know the horse has the experience so I tried to keep him relaxed," said Castillo. "He was able to relax and he ran really great. I liked where we were coming down the stretch, seeing a target for him to run at late. We were in a good position when it was time to run."

Now 10-for-54 lifetime, Amatteroftime last won on Nov. 2, 2022, going 0-for-11 last year.

Penaloza took over the training duties from Ramirez Silvino in the winter.

"I don't know if he has come back better at 9 than he has been before but he has been working well and I told the owners [East Street Stable LLC] this morning that I had a feeling he would run well," said Penaloza. "Did I expect him to win? I can't say that.

"I don't know if the race fell apart but I am very pleased with the way he ran. This is the first stakes race I have ever won at Monmouth Park so it's a good feeling."

A four-peat for He'spuregold in the Irish War Cry

By Bill Finley

He'spuregold, a 6-year-old bred and owned by John Bowers Jr., isn't going to make the Hall of Fame or win an Eclipse Award. That's fine by his trainer, Kelly Breen. With his class, his determination and his durability, he has won over his trainer, who calls him one of his all-time favorites. How can you not love a horse who is so honest that he won the same stakes race four years in a row?

That's exactly what happened when the son of Vancouver won the July 7 Irish War Cry Handicap at Monmouth. It was his fourth straight win in the Jersey-bred stakes run at a mile on the turf.

"He's such a nice horse. I can't stop thinking about him," Breen said. "He is something else. I've been thinking about this all day, that he is such a nice horse. I actually feel like I have a connection with the horse.

"I have been consulting with Patty Hogan the last couple years so far as keeping him sound and dealing with certain issues. He has his issues. But he is so classy, so nice to be around. When I first got him his legs weren't in the best shape, which makes it even more remarkable that he could do this four years in a row. It's beyond my imagination so far as what a horse can handle and keep on running. He is the epitome of a war horse. He's had surgeries and he is still just a warrior. He comes back year after year. I'm so proud to train him."

Breen has only been training for

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Bowers for about five years. The first horse bred by Bowers that Breen trained was Valedictorian, who is a half-sister to He'spuregold. That mare won five stakes races for Breen, including the Grade 3 Eatontown and Suwanee River.

"She was claimed from John and the woman, Harriet Sawyer, had her with another trainer," Breen explained. "She found me out and said I have a Jersey bred, will you take it to Monmouth Park with you? That was actually the first horse bred by John Bowers that I ever had. We won multiple stakes, open stakes.

"From there I started picking up Mr. Bowers' horses here in New Jersey. Valedictorian was one of the key things that introduced me to Mr. Bowers. I wish I trained for him 20 years ago. Since we've been together for the past five years or so we've won a bunch of stakes races together, Jersey-breds and open stakes. He breeds a really nice horse and he takes pride in what he does."

Bowers also bred the dam of He'spuregold and Valedictorian, the Smart Strike mare Smart N Classy. She was a two-time stakes winner who also won the Grade 3 Eatontown Stakes.

Bowers is wrapping up his breeding and racing operation. Breen said that he has retired many of his mares and is no longer buying new ones to replace them.

"He is not young and he is ready to move on to a new chapter in his life," Breen said. "His broodmares were passing away and he did not replace them."

Courtesy of He'spuregold he's likely to have something more to cheer about for quite some time.

After last year's Irish War Cry, Breen couldn't find another Jersey-bred stakes for He'spuregold and ran him in four open company races with mixed results.

"We don't have many options left so far as Jersey bred races go, so I'm sure there will be some races for him out of town in the near future," Breen said.

He'spuregold is a eigh-time winner from 27 career starts. In addition to the Irish Way Cry he won the Charles Hesse III Handicap in 2022.

"He is such a cool horse," Breen said. "I'm so happy for John Bowers. He has been a great supporter of Jersey breds for a long time. I get sentimental with this horse. He's a Jersey-bred, just like me. I've been going through a lot lately. I had surgery last year and I'm not walking well. This horse has helped. I take everything he has done to heart."

Book'em Danno surges late to win Jersey Shore Stakes

Monmouth Park Press Release

Trainer Derek Ryan and Book'em Danno got everything they wanted out of the $115,000 Jersey Shore Stakes July 19 at Monmouth Park – but just barely.

Roused by jockey Samuel Marin as he launched a furious stretch drive, Grade 1 winner Book'em Danno surged at the wire to beat Little Ni by a nose in his final prep before the Grade 1 Allen Jerkens at Saratoga Aug. 24.

"That's a nice horse that ran second," said Ryan. "We got what we wanted out of the race. He had to fight for it today. If all things go well, we'll be back in Saratoga to run in the Allen Jerkens."

A gelded New Jersey-bred son of Bucchero owned by Atlantic Six Racing, Book'em Danno improved to 6-for-8 lifetime (with two seconds). Coming off a win in the Grade 1 Woody Stephens at Saratoga June 8, he went off 1-5 in a reduced field of four 3-year-olds.

The winning time for the 6 furlongs was 1:09.23.

Little Ni, a Kentucky-bred son of Mohaymen trying stakes company for the first time after starting his career with three straight wins, looked like a winner until Book'em Danno steamrolled through the lane.

"He ran great. He got beat. I don't know if it was by a better horse," said trainer Eddie Owens Jr. of Little Ni. "We did all of the work. He ran a winning race except for the last jump.

"We'll talk to the owners and figure out if we will take him up to Saratoga or if we'll look for something different. We'll find something that suits him. As well as he ran it's disappointing to lose by a nose after a great effort."

Book'em Danno, who began his career with two straight wins at Monmouth Park, paid $2.40 to win.

But his prospects were not promising when he was fairly well back early on in the race through opening fractions of :22.14 and :44.50.

"He broke well, but what happened is I didn't want to rush him in the beginning because I know if you ask him he will go, so I didn't want to rush him," said Marin, who is now four-for-four aboard Book'em Danno. "I know what kind of horse I have. He was pretty comfortable and I didn't want to get myself in a bad spot. Little Ni is a good horse.

"The track is really deep and Danno was trying to handle it. If I asked him earlier he would have won easily. Right now, I'm 22, this is the best horse I have ever ridden. Hopefully I get a chance on more like this."

It was another 5¾ lengths back in third to Buccherino as Book'em Danno and Little Ni seized the moment with a stirring stretch duel.

"We ran good. We just lost on the last jump against a Grade 1 winner," said jockey Jairo Rendon, the rider of Little Ni. "It was a big race for [Little Ni] and he performed well. We were trying to hold on but [Book'em Danno] is a really good horse, too.

"My horse gave me a good race. I knew he was going to run big today too. It would have been really tough to beat that horse but we almost did it."

Mia's Crusade scores fifth career stakes win in Jersey Girl Handicap

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Monmouth Park Press Release

Trainer Chuck Spina said he may never figure out why Mia's Crusade threw in a rare clunker in her prior start, but once a mid-day rain storm doused Monmouth Park July 6, he knew his 5-year-old mare would be just fine again.

Able to sit a stalking trip behind longshot Sea Maiden through the opening five-eighths of the 1-mile Jersey Girl Handicap for Jersey-bred fillies and mares, Mia's Crusade took control coming out of the final turn and then had just enough left to hold off the furious late charge of 1-2 favorite Riding Pretty for a nose victory.

The winning time on a grass course listed as firm even after the rain was 1:35.82.

It marked the fifth stakes win in state-bred company for the daughter of Greenpointcrusader, who was bred by Dianne Boyken and is owned by

Prancing Horse Farm LLC. Just as impressive is that she has now won Jersey-bred stakes races sprinting on the grass, going a mile on the turf, sprinting on a sloppy track and sprinting on a fast track.

"I have never ridden a horse that wins on so many surfaces," said jockey Jomar Torres, who has ridden Mia's Crusade in her past 16 starts. "Whatever track you put her on she runs. I looked at Jairo Rendon [aboard runner-up Riding Pretty] after the finish and asked him who won it. He said he thought I did. But I wasn't sure."

Mia's Crusade won her seasonal debut in the Spruce Fir Handicap at 6 furlongs on the dirt at Monmouth Park May 18 before a head-scratching sixth-place finish in the Smart N Classy Handicap in her next start.

She was beaten 20¼ lengths that race – an obvious aberration for an ultra-consistent horse who now has eight wins, two seconds and two thirds from 19 career starts.

"She's just so honest," said Spina. "To be honest, I can't figure out why she ran as poorly as she did last race. I couldn't find anything wrong with her. It's just a mystery. Maybe we ran her back too close after the long layoff when she won the Spruce Fir Handicap. We came back in 15 days after that. So, I don't have an answer, and it was frustrating because she is so consistent.

"This game will drive you nuts because I still don't know why she got beat 20¼ lengths last time. We went over it with a fine tooth comb. We couldn't find anything."

Once Spina saw the rain he felt better about Mia's Crusade bouncing back, since she owns two slop wins and another Jersey-bred stakes victory on a good turf course.

"I do think the rain we had helped her today," said Spina. "She likes moisture when she runs, whether it's grass or dirt."

Torres echoed that sentiment.

"She's amazing. I think the rain helped," he said. "She likes a little moisture, whether it's on the dirt or the grass. And she is getting better and better."

Holly Crest Farms homebred Riding Pretty wins Smart N Classy Handicap

Trainer Eddie Owens Jr. always thought it was just a matter of time before Riding Pretty became a stakes winner. He just didn't expect it to take this long.

Benefitting from an up-close stalking trip behind early dueling leaders, Riding Pretty pulled away for a dominant 7½-length victory in the $85,000 Smart N Classy Handicap at Monmouth Park June 2.

It marked Owens' third stakes win of the meet, with the veteran conditioner having won the John J. Reilly Handicap with Speaking and Long Branch Stakes with Sea Streak, who romped by a similar margin.

Longshot Autumn's Turn rallied for second, three-quarters of a length ahead of Beach Daze.

"I don't want to say that this was the result of class relief, because Mia's Crusade raced well two weeks ago when she won a stakes race and [Beach Daze] won this race last year and was coming off a win," said Owens. "With the trip we had we were able to be clear on the outside when we were stalking the speed and [Beach Daze] was kind of pinned inside. She's a lot better now than she was last. I ran her one too many times last year on the grass at Gulfstream. She has improved a lot.

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"I thought she would win a stakes race way before this."

Ridden by Jairo Rendon, Riding Pretty was third behind Bel Pensiero and Mia's Crusade, with the two taking the six-horse field of Jersey-bred fillies and mares through plodding early fractions of :25.16 and :49.21 for the half.

Rendon then looped her around the pacesetters coming out of the final turn and there were no challenges after that. She paid $4.00 to win as the favorite.

The winning time for the mile was 1:39.25.

"I was worried about the slow early pace. But once they picked it up and a little bit, and being in a good position like she was, I knew she would finish well," said Owens.

A 4-year-old daughter of Jack Milton owned and bred by Holly Crest Farm, Riding Pretty notched her fourth lifetime win from 19 starts. Since 2023 her record is 3-2-2 from seven Monmouth starts. She was third in the Grade 3 Monmouth Oaks a year ago and fourth in the Grade 2 Beldame Stakes last fall in New York.

"I know she's a talented filly and I got a lot of confidence in her with the way she worked the other day," said Rendon. "So I just put her in the position going into the stretch to let her run. The trip was perfect for her."

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred©

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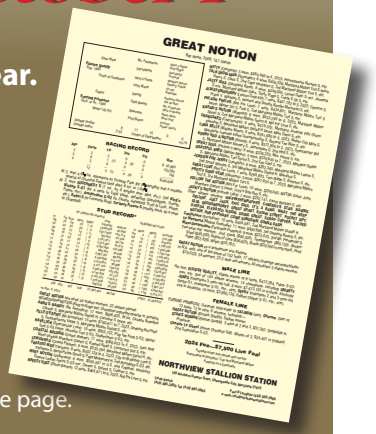

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North Carolina

THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

September 2024

President's message

Congratulations to Kristin, Caroline, Ken, Beth, Nancy, Arlee, Bill, Clint, and Dan on their horses' wins. Kudos to those whose horses made it to the track. It's a testament to your collective effort and dedication that we've seen so many victories in these two report-ing periods.

I cannot thank Bonnie Herring, Linda Epley and Steve Epley for volunteering to take over the helm of the NCTA. Their experiences and enthusiasm will bring renewed vigor and ideas to the association. They already have a volunteer who will be the webmaster of our site. I am eager to witness the changes to come. The following will be the positions they will hold.

President - Bonnie Herring
Siler City, North Carolina
Vice President – Linda Epley
Maysville, North Carolina
Treasurer - Steve Epley
Maysville, North Carolina

I am sure they will appreciate your continued support as I have.

–Rebecca

Race Reviews

Rocky Dice, by Exaggerator out of Katispsublue, by Comic Strip, won at Charles Town for owner Kristin Block May 24. The 5-year-old bay gelding ran 5 furlongs in 1:27.30 on a fast track. Rocky Dice, rated mid-pack near the inside, made a move leaving the three-eighths pole; at the top of the stretch, he contested the leader dug in to win by a neck.

Atomic Blonde (Ger), by The Grey Gatsby out of Alwina, by Areion, won the Keertana Stakes at Churchill Downs for owner Caroline Cooper in partnership May 25. The 5-year-old gray mare ran 1½ miles on a firm turf course. Trailing the pack at the start, the Germanbred mare ran on the inside under a hold, moved out at the eighth pole, finishing strongly to win by a half length.

Jersey Perfection, by Mission Impazible out of PJ Hooker, by Hook and Ladder, won at Monmouth Park for breeder Ken Orchard – Jet M Stable May 26. The 5-year-old dark bay gelding ran 1 mile and 70 yards on a fast track in 1:45.42. He broke well, prompting an early pace from the inside, took the lead in the far turn, and separated from the pack down the stretch to win by 7¾ lengths.

My Shea D Lady wins her second New York Stallion Stakes for owner Dan Shea- Shea D Boy's Stable. Photo Credit: Coglianese Photography

Champagne Camie, by Speighster out of Ice for the Lady, by Flatter, won at Santa Anita for breeder Beth Muirhead June 1. The 5-year-old bay mare ran 6 furlongs on the turf in 1:09.90. She stalked the pace along the rail, moved to challenge the leader at the top of the stretch, and gained ground at the final furlong to win by 3 lengths.

Diamond's Cabaret, by Justify out of Precious Stone (Ire), by Galileo (Ire), won at Charles Town June 21, breaking her maiden for owner Arlee Arkofa. The 3-year-old bay filly ran 7 furlongs on a fast track in 1:28.25. She stalked the pace on the inside on the first turn and made her move to gain position nearing the three-eighth pole, made a far turn more three-wide, took the lead at the sixteenth pole, cleared the pack to win by 2½ lengths.

Zippin Pippin, by Runhappy out of Proud Dame, by Proud Accolade, won at Wyoming Downs for breeder Nancy Shuford June 30. The 4-year-old bay filly ran 6 furlongs on a fast track in 1:09.87. She stalked the pace until the stretch and, with unleased speed, picked off rivals to win by 4¾ lengths.

Cairo Caper, by Cairo Prince out of Summer Clothes, by Summer Front, won at Woodbine July 4 for owner Bill Thompson. The 2-year-old gray or roan gelding broke his maiden by going 6 furlongs on the turf in 1:09.60. The young gelding held the second position, responded to

urging, made a bid for the lead in the upper stretch, and took over at the final furlong to win by 1½ lengths.

Termsofengagement, by Liam's Map out of One Foxy Grey, by Big Brown, won at Penn National July 12 for breeder Nancy Shuford. The 4-year-old grey or roan ran 6 furlongs in 1:10.40. The gelding hopped at the start and rushed the two leaders, taking over the lead nearing the quarter pole and drew off to win by 3 lengths.

Raise a Ruckus, by Fiber Sonde out of Hot Creek Risin', by Bring the Heat, won at Charles Town July 13 for breeder and owner Clint Lowery. The 5-year-old gray or roan gelding set the pace but was challenged in the backstretch and met with a duel until the quarter pole. Taking over the lead at the quarter pole, he held to win by a length.

My Shea D Lady, by Solomini out of Ladyberg, by Tueflesberg, won the New York Stallion Stakes at Saratoga July 17 for owner Dan Shea – Shea D Boy's Stable. The 3-year-old dark bay or brown filly ran 1 mile on the dirt at 1:38.27 (originally scheduled for the inner turf.) The two-time stakes-winning filly was in second early, going two and three wide, angled out to seven wide into the upper stretch, took the lead at the three-sixteenths pole, and drew away to win by 1¾ lengths.

Hitting the Board

May 24 – July 24, 2024

Date	Horse	Track	NCTA Connection	Results
24-May	Rocky Dice	Charles Town	Owned by Kristin Block	WINNER!
25-May	Atomic Blonde	Churchill Downs $250K Keertana S	Owned by Caroline Cooper in partnership	WINNER!
26-May	Jersey Perfection	Monmouth Park	Bred by Ken Orchard - Jet M Stable	WINNER!
31-May	Cairo Caper	Woodbine	Owned by Bill Thompson	3rd
1-Jun	Champagne Camie	Santa Anita	Bred by Beth Muirhead	WINNER!
3-Jun	Happy Boy Rocket	Louisiana Downs	Bred by Bill Thompson	2nd
8-Jun	Zippin Pippin	Wyoming Downs	Bred by Nancy Shuford	WINNER!
14-Jun	Double Tough Tiger	Camarero Racetrack	Bred by Beth Muirhead	3rd
14-Jun	Colonel Cooper	Belterra Park	Owned by Caroline Cooper	3rd
20-Jun	Kenny Had a Notion	Delaware Park	Owned by Arlee Arkofa	2nd
20-Jun	Come on Arlene	Belterra Park	Owned by Caroline Cooper	3rd
21-Jun	Loki's Lightning	Charles Town	Owned by Bill Thompson	3rd
21-Jun	Diamond's Cabaret	Charles Town	Owned by Arlee Arkofa	WINNER!
22-Jun	Good Medicine	Monmouth Park	Bred & owed by Frank Batten	WINNER!

Date	Horse	Track	NCTA Connection	Results
28-Jun	Mac to Moore	Belmont at the Big A	Bred by Bill Thompson	2nd
30-Jun	Zippin Pippin	Wyoming Downs	Bred by Nancy Shuford	WINNER!
30-Jun	Jersey Perfection	Monmouth Park	Bred by Ken Orchard - Jet M Stable	2nd
4-Jul	Fletcher	Penn National	Bred & owned by Jim Chandley	2nd
4-Jul	Cairo Caper	Woodbine	Owned by Bill Thompson	WINNER!
4-Jul	Taproom	Woodbine	Owned by Bill Thompson	3rd
13-Jul	Raise a Ruckus	Charles Town	Bred & owned by Clint Lowry	WINNER!
14-Jul	Tiz Sweet Emotion	Ellis Park	Bred by Denise Walsh	2nd
14-Jul	Good Medicine	Monmouth Park	Bred & owned by Frank Batten	2nd
12-Jul	Termsofengagement	Penn National	Bred by Nancy Shuford	WINNER!

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

(910) 261-7595 • www.ncthoroughbred.com • ncthoroughbred@gmail.com • P.O. Box 76, Fayetteville, NC 28302

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PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

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September 2024
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- **Stallion registration:** Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:** Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Brian N. Sanfratello
Executive Secretary
execsec@pabred.com

Vicky Schowe
Asst. Exec. Sec.

701 E. Baltimore Pike, Ste. E
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Castle Rock Farm is now preserved forever

By Nikki Sherman

Joe Giangiulio with his first stable star Mr. First. Aerial view of Castle Rock Farm in Unionville.

When Italian immigrant Joe Giangiulio arrived in America over a century ago, he was an enthusiastic kid ready for a new adventure. As he grew up, he worked at several construction companies, sometimes more than one at a time. He was honing his craft, learning on the job. He essentially became a full-time, self-taught student in everything he was involved with. When the time was right, Giangiulio created his own construction company. He used the profits to access a dream: a life with horses.

Joe Giangiulio started with show horses but quickly was introduced to Thoroughbred horse racing. He was immediately hooked and soon enough bought land in Havertown, Pa., which he named Castle Rock Farm. He bought about 20 horses, including some broodmares who became foundation mares on the farm. By the 1950s, his horses were competitive on the highest stage. His first horse was a half-brother to major juvenile winner Uncle Miltie. Named Mr. First, he was second to Bardstown in the 1957 Widener Handicap at Hialeah, second to Nashua in the 1956 Monmouth Handicap (which would become the Haskell Invitational), and third behind Helioscope and champion Hasty Road in the 1954 Benjamin Franklin Handicap at Garden State Park.

"My father had the ultimate bad fortune in that he was successful right away," Joe's son Peter Giangiulio said with a laugh. "He was a grassroots horseman who really worked hard at research, so from meager mares, he produced horses that could run on a national level. He was a student of Federico Tesio with his breeding tactics.

"He also didn't like other people racing his horses and he was not one to quit. That's why he bought the farm and training center; he decided he was going to do it his way. He also used to say that when a horse broke his maiden, he lost his best friend: the 'M' in the win column. With no state-bred programs at the time, you just ran and competed, or you didn't."

Peter and his sister Barbara Geraghty spent the earliest years of their lives at the original Castle Rock Farm. Peter remembers cooling out his first horse at six years old and has been active in the industry ever since. Barbara loved the horses too. In 1957 Joe purchased Indian Rock Farm on the current Castle Rock property and moved his family across the county.

"He decided to sell the original Castle Rock because the whole town had so many houses on it; all that was left was a little postage stamp-sized piece of land," Peter said. "He wanted to stand stallions, so he was smart commercially. He changed the name from Indian Rock to Castle Rock Farm because his horses were nationally recognized, and made sure to keep the same traditional silks."

After Joe and his wife Julia passed away, the farm was left to their children. Barbara had not taken an active role in the racetrack when she was younger but she was more than prepared for the business side.

"We have a lot of faith and trust in each other," noted Peter. "Of course, we argued as cats and dogs as kids but we clung to each other too. As adults, we have

Castle Rock Farm continued from page 1

never had a cross word. She's brilliant. Now she has as many horses on the farm as I do."

Barbara owns multiple Pennsylvania champion Power by Far, who still stands at Castle Rock at age 29. Power by Far was a brilliant racehorse, winning 15 of 32 races including 10 stakes races. During his career, the Mid-Atlantic racetracks joined together to participate in a unique series of stakes races for local horses, with races offered at each participating track, titled Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred Championships. Power by Far dominated the MATCH Series' 3-year-old Sprint–Dirt division in 1998.

"When he won the MATCH Series, I made a collage for Barbara of winning pictures," Peter said proudly. "Power by Far was in the center with his mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great grandmother, all in our colors. Power by Far has sired the next generation, who in turn produced another generation. All in all, it's been seven generations. It's extremely gratifying."

Peter credits the success of Castle Rock Farm to many family members and longtime employees. He especially appreciates longevity in relationships. He has been on the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association Board for 47 years. Barbara and her husband Bill Geraghty have been married for 64 years, while Peter and his wife Stephanie are approaching 40 years.

"I have the most amazing crew. In addition to our family, my Farm Manager June Hillman has been with us 29 years and our right hand man Fernando Carranco for almost 20 years. There are six of us: June, Fernando, Barbara, Bill, Stephanie and me. We're all better together. Take one person out of the team and everything else would fall apart."

When Peter and Stephanie met, she did not have much interest in horses, but he says that she "osmotically grew interested in the horses through his appreciation and dedication to the farm." He firmly believes that they would not have been able to have success without his wife. "Stephanie is the glue that holds things together for me with running the business. She does work so she's not able to be there every day at home, but she's a tremendous asset and very savvy."

Inevitably, as with most businesses these days, the Castle Rock Farm team found themselves searching for a way to continue without giving up their land to developers, like so many other farmers have been forced to do over the last decade. That was when the National Lands, a non-profit organization that saves open space in eastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey, approached them with some ideas. The answer was creative and sustainable: the Giangiulio family placed a permanent conservation easement on 170 acres of the property with Natural Lands. In a press release, Natural Lands said that it received funding to underwrite the preservation of the farm from Chester County's Preservation Partnership Program; Mars Foundation; the Marshallton Conservation Trust; the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program; West Bradford Township; and the Giangiulio family.

Peter was happy with the decision. "I got no resistance from my wife or sister. We were able to come up with an agreement that allowed us to preserve this legacy because once you sell it, you lose control of what happens to it. The idea of having this place turn into a development and ruin my neighbors' lives… it would destroy the land forever; once it's gone, it's gone. It was our refusal to be pushed out."

Ironically, Castle Rock Farm holds a fascinating piece of horticultural history. It was the home of Quaker Humphry Marshall, who is considered a founding father of American botany. His original house, built just before America declared its independence, still stands today. The house itself is still in use, showcased by a stone designating it as a National Historic Landmark in 1987. It was also recorded in 1958 by the Historic American Buildings Survey and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971. In 1785 Marshall famously penned Arbustrum Americanum, the very first botanical treatise about the trees and shrubs of North America. Marshall also built one of the first botanical gardens in the newly-formed United States around his home.

This fall at the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association (TOBA) National Awards Dinner, the members of Castle Rock Farm will be honored for their efforts in land conservation in the Thoroughbred industry. They will receive the 2024 Robert N. Clay Conservation Award, presented by the Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR).

"It's a national award so we appreciate the recognition," said Peter. "It's great that the industry has a new idea of what to do with the green space we've basically been given stewardship of. I've never been to Kentucky so it will be a nice little trip.

"But our world is Pennsylvania and it's been awfully good to us over the years. Now, when you come down from Marshallton and hit the break of the hill approaching Northbrook, there is such satisfaction in the half-mile of river frontage on the Brandywine. Knowing it's going to be this way for everyone to enjoy – kayaking, canoeing, fishing – it means the world to us. I'm so happy that we can continue to raise our horses, enjoying the beauty of our land, and it'll be here forever."

A few words from the Executive Secretary

I'd like to thank PARX Racing, the PTHA, the PHBA Board, our staff and all the breeders and guests in attendance who made PA Day at the Races another huge success. The food was great, the racing was spectacular, and $1 million in purses were paid out to horses that were all bred in Pennsylvania! Our industry supports PA farms, 23,000 jobs, hundreds of thousands of acres of open space, hundreds of small businesses and $1.6 billion in economic impact. Thanks also goes out to the NTRA who donated the John Deere Zero Turn Mower. Congrats to the winner.

The first leg in the 2yo PA-Sired PA-Bred Stallion Series, which has been expanded for 3yos, will kick off on PA Derby Day, Saturday, Sept. 21 at PARX. Those two races for 2yos and 2yo fillies will carry a purse of $100,000 and a $50,000 breeder bonus for horses that finish first, second and third in total points for the series: $25,000 for first, $15,000 for second and $10,000 for third. This bonus will be paid after the 3yo races in 2025. Free nominations for those already registered for the series close Sept. 3. The $100,000 Alphabet Soup Handicap for 3&up at 1 1/16 miles on the turf and the $100,000 Plum Pretty Stakes for 3&up at a mile and 70 yards will round out the day for PA-Breds.

You should be familiar with the online registration system on our website. If you are still using paper registrations, please make sure you forward a signed copy of the Code of Ethics, which is attached to the registration form. We will be transitioning to paperless the beginning of 2025. As usual, please contact our office with any questions you may have.

Wishing you a fantastic finish to 2024, and remember, PA is the only place to Breed and Race! Over 30 million paid out to PA-Bred owners and breeders in Breeder Awards, Owner Bonuses and Restricted Races. Go PA!!

2024 2YO PA-SIRED
PA-BRED STALLION SERIES

AOIFE'S MAGIC
2023 IMPLY
STAKES WINNER

SIX $100,000 STAKES

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 AT PARX

$100,000
WHISTLE PIG STAKES
2YO PA-Sired PA-Breds, 6 furlongs

$100,000
MISS BLUE TYE DYE STAKES
2YO fillies, PA-Sired PA-Breds, 6 furlongs

*Free nominations for horses registered to series, close Sept. 3

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30 AT PARX

$100,000
WAIT FOR IT STAKES
2YO PA-Sired PA-Breds, 7 furlongs

$100,000
MISS BEHAVIOUR STAKES
2YO fillies, PA-Sired PA-Breds, 7 furlongs

*Free nominations for horses registered to series, close Dec. 16

PENNSYLVANIA
HORSE BREEDERS
ASSOCIATION

SERIES CONTINUES FOR 3YOS IN 2025

PRINCE LUCKY STAKES
AND IMPLY STAKES

$50,000 IN BREEDER BONUSES
awarded to breeders of top three point earning horses in six race series

DETAILS AT
PABRED.COM

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO PABRED.COM OR CALL BRIAN SANFRATELLO AT 610.444.1050

PA-Bred Fund Statistics: Top Earners

January 1 through May 31, 2024

LEADING EARNERS - TOTAL AWARDS

Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total	Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total
Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	188,740	91,289	280,028	Maria M. Haire	49,189	2,585	51,774
Warriors Reward	166,426	55,396	221,822	Sylmar Farm Inc.	49,678	0	49,678
Northview Stallion Station Inc.	0	163,081	163,081	Barbara A. Rickline	39,586	8,567	48,153
Steven W. Young Racing LLC	113,100	44,633	157,733	William P. Brady Estate	48,110	0	48,110
Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	47,780	62,846	110,626	William J. Solomon VMD	23,130	23,815	46,944
Glenn E. Brok LLC	81,378	17,743	99,121	Fox Tale	40,281	4,284	44,565
Blackstone Farm LLC	98,004	0	98,004	Richard Molineaux	41,770	0	41,770
Pewter Stable	61,803	21,303	83,106	Smart Angle LLP	39,449	0	39,449
Arrowwood Farm Inc.	76,210	0	76,210	St. Omer's Farm	38,590	0	38,590
Godstone Farm LLC	65,212	0	65,212	Dennis Johnson	38,416	0	38,416
Richard N. Miller	46,430	9,759	56,189	Y. Jerry Kolybabiuk	38,412	0	38,412
Peter Giangiulio	52,154	2,043	54,196	Luana J. Johnson	27,945	9,439	37,384

LEADING STALLIONS

Fund Money includes Stallion Awards only

Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total	Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total
Uptowncharlybrown	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	214	91,289	Emperor Tiberius	Richard N. Miller	15	9,759
Weigelia	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	113	62,530	Talent Search	Glenn E. Brok LLC	20	9,492
Hoppertunity	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	131	57,189	Golddigger's Boy	Luana J. Johnson	36	9,439
Uncle Lino	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	122	55,876	Boisterous	Tommy Town Thoroughbreds LLC	48	9,379
Warrior's Reward	Warriors Reward	144	55,396	Xixixi	Barbara A. Rickline	20	8,567
Peace and Justice	Steven W. Young Racing LLC	95	44,633	Lord Shanakill	William J. Solomon VMD	40	7,610
Social Inclusion	Social Inclusion Partners LLC	57	31,309	Eastwood	Glenn E. Brok LLC	24	7,368
Jump Start	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	100	26,426	Albert The Great	William J. Solomon VMD	12	7,182
Winchill	Pewter Stable	64	21,303	Bullsbay	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	19	6,808
Well Spelled	Godstone Farm LP	54	19,035	Rimrod	George Strawbridge Jr.	11	6,044
Red Vine	DB Dojo LLC	26	14,122	Il Villano	Chuck Russo	16	5,027
Medallist	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	22	13,878	Almasty	William J. Solomon VMD	2	4,560

LEADING HORSES

Fund Money includes: PA-Bred Races, Breeder and Stallion Awards and PA-Bred Owner-Bonus Payments. **Denotes PA-sired*

Horse	Pedigree	Breeder	Races	Stakes	Breeder Award	Stallion Award	Bonus	Total
Fierce and Strong *	Hoppertunity - Doubleclickdamouse	Ultra Championship Racing LLC	2	56,400	31,860	7,965	4,650	100,875
Far Mo Power *	Uncle Lino - J. D. Safari	Peter Giangiulio	1	52,800	21,120	5,280	0	79,200
Social Lady *	Social Inclusion - Graemy	Glenn E. Brok LLC	6	0	43,200	10,800	24,000	78,000
Stern Chaser	Astern - Mysterious Ways	Caroline Bentley	1	57,600	11,520	0	0	69,120
Respirator *	Peace and Justice - La Padrina	Dennis Johnson	7	0	33,936	8,484	24,240	66,660
Morning Matcha	Central Banker - Home Ice	Crane Thoroughbred Services LLC	1	55,200	11,040	0	0	66,240
Powwa of Love *	Uptowncharlybrown - Joyce's Angel	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	6	0	33,600	8,400	24,000	66,000
Empress Deona *	Emperor Tiberius - Deona	Richard N. Miller	2	0	28,560	7,140	20,400	56,100
Confirmed Star *	Uptowncharlybrown - Its My Town	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	4	0	32,760	8,190	14,200	55,150
Bunny Bonus *	Xixixi - Easter Bonus	Barbara A. Rickline	7	0	25,866	6,467	18,476	50,809
Ron Don Scorese	Normandy Invasion - Siege	Hope Hill Farm	7	0	20,272	0	28,960	49,232
Jewels in the Bay *	Bullsbay - Tiara	Howard Roger Brown Jr.	5	0	24,707	6,177	17,648	48,532
Uncle Ernie *	Talent Search - Mary Cole	Gilman Hallenbeck	3	8,800	21,328	5,332	12,720	48,180
Gray Lightning *	Social Inclusion - Fairy Gray	Desmond C. Wynter	2	0	26,640	6,660	12,000	45,300
Keithsendshelloooo *	Uptowncharlybrown - Be Bop a Lula	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	3	0	22,400	5,600	16,000	44,000
Party At Sam's *	Weigelia - More Party Girl	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	6	0	21,928	5,482	15,380	42,790
Johnny Ritt *	Weigelia - C J's Little Girl	Barbara Wheeler	4	0	21,056	5,264	15,040	41,360
Traders Luck *	Weigelia - Deanies Dancer	Sylmar Farm Inc.	4	0	19,768	4,942	14,120	38,830
Matty Bo *	Eastwood - Matinee Babe	Designated Hitters Racing LLC	7	0	19,376	4,844	13,840	38,060
Snappy Ride *	Uptowncharlybrown - Primo Via	Michael P. Ballezzi Sr. Estate	3	0	18,536	4,634	13,240	36,410
Disco Ebo *	Weigelia - Katarica Disco	St. Omer's Farm	1	0	18,480	4,620	13,200	36,300
Keeping It Country	Freud - Lemon Drop's Love	Blackstone Farm LLC	7	0	20,450	0	15,650	36,100
Fairy Dreams *	Well Spelled - Queen Mab	Godstone Farm LLC	4	0	18,368	4,592	13,120	36,080
Eddie W *	Peace and Justice - Back Stop	Steven W. Young Racing LLC	4	0	21,662	5,416	8,616	35,694

SCTOBA

South Carolina

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2024

Racing Across the Nation

Between May 25 and July 19, nine South Carolina training center graduates won stakes races.

On May 25, Dataman won his second stakes race in a row when capturing the Cliff Hanger at Monmouth Park. He had won the Henry S. Clark at Laurel Park April 20. In the Cliff Hanger, Dataman trailed the field for the opening half mile of this 1 1/16-mile turf race. With a quarter of a mile to go, Dataman moved to the outside, circled the field and crossed the finish line a length in front. The 4-year-old gelding learned his early lessons at the Travis Durr Training Center. This win pushed his career earnings to just over $300,000.

New Hire, a 6-year-old mare, proved best in the Penn Ladies Dash Stakes at Penn National May 31. A graduate of Randy and Kala Rentz's breaking program, New Hire stalked the pace in this 6-furlong stakes before taking over the lead in deep stretch and quickly spurting away to a 1¾-length advantage at the wire. In 15 career starts, she has six wins, a second and five third-place finishes, earning $192,330.

Riding Pretty, also a Travis Durr Training Cener graduate, proved much the best in the Smart N Classy Handicap at Monmouth Park June 2. In the turn for home in this 1-mile stakes, Riding Pretty reached the front and flew away from the field in the stretch, crossing the finish line 7½ lengths in front. This win brought her career earnings to $292,365.

Book'em Danno became a graded stakes winner June 8 when he finished first in the Woody Stephens Stakes at Saratoga. A graduate of the Rentz Farm Training Center, he broke last but quickly moved up to mid-pack. At the top of the stretch, he took command and while chased down the lane, would not be denied, establishing himself as one of the leading sprinters in the country by winning this Grade 1 stakes by a half-length. Book'em Danno continued his fantastic 2024 campaign winning the Jersey Shore Stakes at Monmouth Park July 19. Droppin a half-dozen lengths off the early lead before flying down the stretch, he got up at the wire to win by a nose! He has now won five stakes in only eight career starts consisting of six wins and two second-place finishes. His career earnings have climbed to $910,624.

On June 9 and a week later, June 16, two more Travis Durr Training Center former students won stakes. The first came as Amatteroftime got up late to win the Friendly Lover at Monmouth Park. With a strong rally in the stretch, Amatteroftime finished first by three-quarters of a length. This 9-year-old gelding has made 55 lifetime starts, recording 10 wins and 13 second-place finishes! He has earned $615,928. Next came 3-year-old filly Toupie, who has made seven lifetime starts and won her second stakes race, the Stormy Blues, at Laurel Park. She was within easy striking distance before taking the lead with a furlong to go and drawing away late to win by 2¼ lengths, upping her earnings to $233,775.

On June 21, jumper L'Imperator (Fr) became a Grade 1 stakes winner when capturing the Beverly R. Steinman Hurdle Handicap at Aqueduct. L'Imperator, trained by SCTOBA member Arch Kingsley, raced mid-pack, jumping well, before gaining the lead in the stretch and proving best by 2 lengths. L'Imperator is a graded stakes winner on both the flat and over jumps. During his six-year career, the 7-year-old has 10 wins, a second and eight third-place finishes, earning $635,779.

Vodka With a Twist is a two-time winner at Churchill Downs as a 2-year-old. She broke her maiden May 17 and won the Debutante Stakes June 30. She quickly went to the front, comfortably dictated the pace and would not let anyone really threaten her in the stretch crossing the finish line 3 lengths in front. Vodka With a Twist was developed for her racing career by Bobby and Jason McCutchen at their training center in Kingstree, S.C. She ran and won her second start with SCTOBA Vice-President Debby McCutchen being listed as owner before being sold in a private transaction before the Debutante.

Little J P, a graduate of Randy and Kala's Rentz Farm Training Center breaking program, broke on top and never looked back in the Sprint Series Leg One Stakes at Grand Prairie July 13, winning by a neck. This 4-year-old gelding has won four of his last five starts.

Making a Goal Come True

When you are an Executive Director of any sporting organization, you are always looking for new talent. I had been watching Taylor Kingsley (daughter of SCTOBA members Arch and Wendy Kingsley) all her life and she constantly reinforced me that she may be the one I was looking for. Her demeanor, attitude and ability were all evident and she was anxious to be a success.

It is funny how things happen. November was approaching in 2023 and for some reason the Fegentri race in Casablanca, Morocco, was short two riders. I was asked if I was willing to send an extra rider and my answer was yes and to give Taylor an opportunity to experience an international competition.

Well, it wasn't just experience she got, she got the win too. And she got the attention of the entire Fegentri world. Bonus for her was that I gave Taylor the nod as the American representative for the 2024 Fegentri Ladies World Championship Series.

For Taylor the Series started in May, flying to Magdeburg, Germany. A well-planned ride, then perfectly executed, provided her with a solid victory to prove Morocco was not a fluke. Okay, first win. Norway came next and a horse called "Slay the Dragon" provided Taylor with a second win over the Ovrevoll racecourse. France was next on the list, got a long shot to ride, earned a point then set off to Sweden to see what luck she may have there.

Taylor is a student of the game. Very mature for a girl in her late teens. She is also a very determined athlete and has a keen sense of pace and a strong finish. Her ride in Sweden had not run well for a while and had moderate odds to win. Never to be discouraged, Taylor worked out a strategy and rode the horse to her third win and the number ONE spot in the rankings. Taylor is on a very good road to a successful year and perhaps making that goal come true, not just for her but also for the Executive Director.

Continued on next page

If you would like to contribute to Taylor's travel expenses, the Amateur Riders Club of America is a 501C3 public charity and contributions are tax deductible. Send donations to Amateur Riders Club of America, P.O. Box 1877, Middleburg, VA 20118.

/Don Yovanovich

South Carolina-trained winners

Horse	*Training Center*	*Date*	*Track*	*Type of Race*
DATAMAN	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	05/25/24	Monmouth Park	Cliff Hanger S
NEW HIRE	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	05/31/24	Penn National	Penn Ladies Dash S
RIDING PRETTY	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	06/02/24	Monmouth Park	Smart N Classy H
BOOK'EM DANNO	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	06/08/24	Saratoga	Woody Stephens-G1
AMATTEROFTIME	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	06/09/24	Monmouth Park	Friendly Lover H
L'IMPERATOR (FR)	Arch Kingsley	06/20/24	Aqueduct	Beverly R. Steinman Hurdle H-G1
Irish Rill	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	06/21/24	Monmouth Park	Allowance
Gold Luck	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	06/21/24	Churchill Downs	Allowance
Go Irish	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	06/21/24	Monmouth Park	Allowance
Danzigwiththestars	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	06/21/24	Aqueduct	Allowance
Freeze the Fire	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	06/21/24	Laurel Park	Allowance
Sedbury's Ghost	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	06/23/24	Woodbine	Maiden special weight
Lifelovenlaughter	Custom Care - D. Freyer	06/23/24	Laurel Park	Allowance
Drive By Layover	Elloree Tng Ctr	06/25/24	Mountaineer	Starter allowance
Bella Voca	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	06/25/24	Finger Lakes	Maiden special weight
Warrior on the Run	Rentz FarmTng Ctr	06/26/24	Penn National	Allowance
Anakarina	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	06/26/24	Churchill Downs	Maiden special weight
East Coast Girl	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	06/26/24	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Combat Hoofs	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	06/27/24	Penn National	Starter allowance
Le Beau	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	06/27/24	Gulfstream Park	Maiden special weight
King's River	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	06/28/24	Laurel Park	Allowance
Zadorsky	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	06/28/24	Laurel Park	Allowance
Prove My Love	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	06/28/24	Laurel Park	Allowance
Oncourtcommentator	Custom Care - D. Freyer	O6/28/24	Laurel Park	Allowance
Little J P	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	06/29/24	Letherbridge Rmtc	Allowance
April Fools Andy	McCutchen Tng Ctr	06/30/24	Laurel Park	Allowance
VODKA WITH A TWIST	McCutchen Tng Ctr	06/30/24	Churchill Downs	Debutante S
Maggy's Palace	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	06/30/24	Aqueduct	Allowance
Cathy's Uncle	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/01/24	Parx Racing	Starter allowance
Paynted Warrior	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/01/24	Presque Isle	Allowance
Dear Santa	Aiken - Legacy Stable	07/03/24	Penn National	Allowance
Twilight Dancer	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/03/24	Presque Isle	Allowance
Winnin'onweekends	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/03/24	Parx Racing	Starter allowance
Sweet Anniversary	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/04/24	Finger Lakes	Maiden special weight
On the Shortlist	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/04/24	Penn National	Allowance
Howler	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	07/04/24	Monmouth Park	Maiden special weight
Creative Copy	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	07/04/24	Penn National	Allowance
Tudox Opportunity	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/05/24	Penn National	Allowance
Merasol Sugar	Aiken - Cary Frommer	07/05/24	Ellis Park	Allowance
Goodbye Note	Elloree Tng Ctr	07/06/24	Laurel Park	Allowance
Miss Enchanted	Mason Springs	07/06/24	Ellis Park	Maiden special weight
Let Her Run	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	07/06/24	Monmouth Park	Maiden special weight
Bartlett	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/08/24	Parx Racing	Allowance
Tap That Magic	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/09/24	Presque Isle	Maiden special weight
Ixodes	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/09/24	Finger Lakes	Maiden special weight
High Dollar Date	Aiken - Cary Frommer	07/09/24	Mountaineer	Starter allowance
Kiss Me Hardy	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/10/24	Parx Racing	Allowance
Perfect Lady Bee	Elloree Tng Ctr	07/11/24	Woodbine	Maiden special weight
Exculpate	Arch Kingsley	07/11/24	Colonial Downs	Maiden special weight
Danzaniteaway	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/12/24	Belterra Park	Allowance
Freeze the Fire	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	07/12/24	Laurel Park	Allowance
LITTLE J P	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/13/24	Grand Prairie	Sprint Series Leg One S
Talented Man	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	07/15/24	Parx Racing	Allowance
Divine Miracle	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	07/15/24	Parx Racing	Starter allowance
Winnin'onweekends	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/15/24	Parx Racing	Allowance
Freedom Eagle	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/15/24	Parx Racing	Maiden special weight
Cathy's Uncle	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/15/24	Parx Racing	Starter allowance
Cat's Cave	McCutchen Tng Ctr	07/15/24	Ellis Park	Allowance
Star Topper	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	07/15/24	Presque Isle	Maiden special weight
Mo Trump	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/16/24	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Walk Away Joe	Elloree Tng Ctr	07/17/24	Delaware Park	Starter allowance
Bellacose	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	07/17/24	Saratoga	Maiden special weight
Mybronxbaby	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	07/17/24	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Big Z Og	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	07/17/24	Parx Racing	Maiden special weight
Bottoms Up	McCutchen Tng Ctr	07/18/24	Colonial Downs	Maiden special weight
BOOK'EM DANNO	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	07/19/24	Monmouth Park	Jersey Shore S
Barbadian Runner	McCutchen Tng Ctr	07/20/24	Laurel Park	Maiden special weight
Fun Nation	Aiken - Alexandra White	07/20/24	Delaware Park	Allowance
Emberly	Aiken - Cary Frommer	07/20/24	Charles Town	Allowance

VIRGINIA

"VIRGINIA WINS WITH HORSES" TV COMMERCIAL WINS PRESTIGIOUS TELLY AWARD

Richmond, VA-based BES Studios and its client, the Virginia Equine Alliance (VEA), were awarded a prestigious Telly Award this summer in recognition of a sixty second TV commercial titled "Virginia Wins With Horses" that was submitted in the annual competition which honors excellence in video and television across all screens.

The VEA, whose mission is to sustain, promote and expand the horse breeding and horse racing opportunities in Virginia, initiated a multi-media campaign. BES Studios acquired hours of authentic footage from via day-long video shoots at Colonial Downs, Shenandoah Downs (harness), Eagle Point Farm and Audley Farm Equine. Footage highlighted the state's economy, tourism, jobs, careers and agriculture. A video of the award-winning spot can be found at the all new virginiahorseracing.com.

Eagle Point Farms' Donna Dennehy & Karen Godsey, whose Ashland-based horse farm was featured in the VEA's award-winning commercial, pose with the Telly Trophy (VEA photo)

VIRGINIA CONNECTIONS OFF TO SOLID STARTS AT COLONIAL DOWNS SUMMER THOROUGHBRED MEET

A number of Virginia trainers and connections made their presence felt early on in the Colonial Downs summer meet including Susan Cooney (Delaplane, VA) who got her picture taken on back-to-back days with a pair of Virginia-breds --- Andrew Lavin's Virginia Fitz in a $56,250 maiden claiming 2-year-old race July 25 and Cooney's own Carolina Hideaway the next day in a $75,000 maiden special weight. The former was bred by Becky Lavin and surprised many with a $45.40 win payout while the latter prevailed after a very difficult load in process at the starting gate.

Trainer Susan Cooney (right) in the Colonial Downs winners circle after Carolina Hideaway's win with Patrick Cooney (left) and Trevor McCarty (VEA photo).

Ferris Allen, a Varina native and all-time leading Colonial Downs trainer, got a July 25 win with Walter Doggett's Translate. The 7-year-old Tonalist mare earned her fourth career win with all-time Colonial leading jockey Horacio Karamanos up. Allen won his 303rd race at Colonial while Karamanos recorded win number 554 in New Kent. Colonial's all-time leading owner David Ross collected victory number 163 at the New Kent track July 18 with 2-year-old War of Will gelding Curahee. Ross also won an opening day race with 4-year-old Temple City gelding My Sanctuary.

Trainer Leanne Hester of Gloucester scored with Cajun Expectation while Madison Meyers, whose Ballyerin Racing Stable is based at the Middleburg Training Center, won with 3-year-old filly Lady Ophelia. Trainer Diana McClure of Berryville collected a win with 5-year-old gelding Arden'sluckytobe in a $80,000 dirt allowance and Karen Godsey, whose Eagle Point Farm is based in Ashland, connected with 4-year-old American Freedom gelding Green Beans who was bred by Robin Richards.

VIRGINIA-BRED HORSES COMPETE IN FOUR-PACK OF STAKES WORTH A COMBINED $500,000

A four-pack of $125,000 Virginia-bred/sired turf stakes showcased the July 20 card in New Kent led by Susan Moulton's well rested Tufani who topped the field in the Brookmeade Stakes distaff race by 1¾ lengths. Trained by Mike Stidham and ridden by Ben Curtis, Tufani completed 1 1/16 turf miles in 1:43.26. The 4-year-old was bred by Chance Farm & Distorted Humor Syndicate.

"We've been very keen to give her a break and let her mature and you can see she's filled out and she's grown," Curtis said. "She used to be very hot. She got warm and was a bit busy in herself. Now you can see it, she walks out like a

Jockey Horacio Karamanos urges Mary Eppler's Passion Play on to victory in the Edward P. Evans Stakes at Colonial Downs (Coady Media).

professional and she relaxes straight away into racing. It makes my job easier, and it makes her job easier."

Reiley McDonald's Passion Play grinded out a victory in the Edward P. Evans Stakes by running down Gettin'downonit in the final stages of the one-mile contest. The winner is trained by Mary Eppler, was ridden by Karamanos and bred by Mr. & Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin III.

"Mary Eppler is so special to me," said Karamanos after the race. "She supported me from the very beginning when I started competing at Laurel. She gave me a chance from day one with some of her really good horses. She has meant so much to my career. She is beautiful because she never gets upset even when you make a mistake."

Determined Stables and Kingdom Bloodstock's Determined Kingdom scored his third straight victory in the 5½ furlong Punch Line Stakes. Trained by Phil Schoenthal and ridden by Victor Carrasco, Determined Kingdom completed his gate-to-wire journey in 1:03.16. The son of Animal Kingdom was bred by Audley Farm Equine and now boasts career earnings of $556,789.

Phil Schoenthal's Determined Kingdom prevails in the Punch Line at Colonial Downs, his third straight win in the stakes (Coady Media).

"My instructions were very simple," said Carrasco. "You got the one hole, you got the best horse, just go on and win. He's been winning that way lately and he's been very successful. He was ready and I didn't think anybody could beat him in this race."

Madison Avenue Racing Stable and Jagger Inc.'s Mystic Seaport stalked and pounced victoriously in the Tyson Gilpin/Glenn Petty Stakes which was contested in a steady downpour. Trained by Jamie Ness and ridden by Mychel Sanchez, Mystic Seaport completed 5½ furlongs in 1:03.23. She was bred in Virginia by Daybreak Stables.

WINFINITY, CANDYCRUMBS SCORE IN TWO-YEAR-OLD VIRGINIA-RESTRICTED DIRT STAKES AT COLONIAL

Dream Big Racing, LLC's Winfinity and Mary Lightner's Candycrumbs each captured a $150,000 Virginia-Restricted dirt stakes for 2-year-olds August 3 via a similar, dramatic come-from-behind running style. The former was 1-1/4 lengths the best in the Keswick for fillies while the latter crossed 1-1/4 lengths in front in the Hickory Tree for colts & geldings. The stakes, contested at 5-1/2 furlongs, were open to Virginia-Bred, Virginia-Sired and Virginia-Certified horses.

Winfinity, making her first lifetime start, was last through much of the stakes before surging from fifth coming out of the turn. The winner, a Not This Time filly, is trained by John Alexnder Ortiz and was bred by Ann Mudge Backer/ Smitten Farm.

"She's a big girl," said jockey Tyler Conner. "I'd never been on her before. She was just green and didn't know what she was doing up there. She was all over the place, running everywhere. She straightened up when she hit the top of the stretch though and just kept surging."

Larry Johnson and RDM Racing Stable's Sail Theseven Seas finished second and Barak Farm's Safe Trust finished third.

Candycrumbs, a Valiant Minister colt fresh off a runner-up at Gulfstream in his career bow June 8th, was last of ten through the 3/8th mark of his stakes before moving to sixth at the top of the stretch and closing strong to win by 1-1/2 lengths over Do It For Michael. Lynn Ashby and William Gotwals' Re Markably took third.

VIRGINIA DERBY TO BECOME KENTUCKY DERBY QUALIFIER RACE AT COLONIAL DOWNS IN 2025

Colonial Downs announced during their second annual "Festival of Racing" event August 10 that the 2025 Virginia Derby has earned the distinction as a "win and you're in" qualifying race on the Road to the Kentucky Derby. Governor Glenn Youngkin announced the landmark event for Virginia horse racing from the winner's circle. The Virginia Derby, whose 21st edition on grass is slated for September 7, will transition to the dirt track and be held on March 15, 2025, anchoring a new four-day spring meet at Colonial Downs.

"Churchill Downs has worked with partners throughout the Commonwealth to reinvigorate Virginia's proud legacy of thoroughbred racing and secure our place as a worldclass destination for racing fans and equine talent from around the world," said Governor Youngkin. "The future for thoroughbred racing in Virginia has never been brighter and this opportunity will allow us to shine on horseracing's biggest stage."

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West Virginia
THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Newsletter September 2024

Celestial Personalities in Motion

By Jeff Gilleas

The diversity of West Virginia-bred sprinters was on full display Saturday night, June 15, in the It's Only Money Stakes. Most of the group vying for the $75,000 purse had repeatedly proven proficiency at the truncated distance of 4½ furlongs, where racing luck can occasionally trump natural ability. Stepping out of the comfort of his undergraduate studies program, Duncan Idaho, a regally born to privilege brother of Muad'dib, Late Night Pow Wow and Overnight Pow Wow, sat a golden trip in his initial black type score, under jockey Arnaldo Bocachica.

Uncharacteristically outrun early by multiple stakes-placed Honeyquist, the son of Fiber Sonde out of Holy Pow Wow tipped outside on the turn, eagerly responded when called upon, and resisted the late surge of ascending 3-year-old Pork Chop Pete. The Jeff Runco trainee is owned by David Raim and was bred by John D. McKee.

In a category lacking a clear-cut current leader, Duncan Idaho made a case for control, while affirming Runco's universal ability with sprinters, routers, fillies, colts and claimers, and groom Quincy Jackson's knowledgeable attention to detail of the runners in his care.

Just a few hours earlier and a 245 mile drive up the Jersey Shore, one of our hometown heroes, Coastal Mission, narrowly went down to defeat in the Grade 3 Salvator Mile. It took a Grade 1 winner from the barn of Todd Pletcher (Bright Future), and a virtuoso rail-skimming performance by jockey Javier Castellano to dispatch the son of Great Notion—Smart Crowd.

Coastal Mission may have lost, but suffered no harm to his reputation, and comparable to his full-brother Lewisfield seems bound to travel to find competition befitting his social status. Owned by breeder Coleswood Farm, the win-friendly 5-year-old continues to delay trainer Jeff Runco from addressing retirement, as he closes in on the 5,000 win plateau.

With a heat wave blanketing the Mid-Atlantic region, and a track surface partial to speed, Direct the Cat's spotlight shone brightly on Thursday, June 20. Making her 3-year-old debut, last year's 2-year-old West Virginia-bred champion filly unleashed a spectacular burst between rivals to trounce stakes-winner Great Spirit.

Following a brief winter freshening, the free-running daughter of Redirect out of Cat Thats Grey proved she is still operating in a different dimension. Looking very fit and focused in the paddock, Direct the Cat is owned by Beau Ridge Farm, trained by Cyndy McKee and bred by John McKee. Drawing off from a good field in outstanding time (:50.87), suggests the title-holder might be courted by the racing office to run in the $750,000 Charles Town Oaks-G2.

As the breeder of millionaire Runnin'toluvya, the only West Virginia-bred to hold the distinction of winning the Grade 2 Charles Town Classic, Leslie Cromer has been a regular presence in print. Frequently honored by her peers, on June 20 the petite horsewoman recorded her most compelling win since becoming a trainer. Tailing a thunderous debut, What'shername is now unbeaten in two starts and seems imbued with the same might, fluidity and temperament as her champion half-brother.

Lov'emnrun, dam of both horses, is the gift that keeps on giving. Cromer, who rode for years, realizes Thoroughbreds are an unpredictable lot and what she has in her hands is a runner with speed and finishing kick… a deadly combination.

Thursday night, June 27, clear skies presided over stellar performances as Jubawithatwist and No Change put on artful clinics in home-cooking exhibitions. In the sixth race, Jubawithatwist – a son of Juba out of Romantic Cork – continued to run up the score on his balance sheet for owner-trainer Kristy Petty. Bred

by John Casey, Jubawithatwist was armed and ready for his three-turn debut, suggesting future historic implications. Petty's 'Pegasus' flew through the stretch to an ultra-impressive final clocking of 1:45.60.

The very next race on the dazzling weeknight card witnessed Cyndy McKee's No Change unveil a highlight reel versus a field awash in crack West Virginia-bred runners. After his most recent debacle, where a scrum at the quarter pole left him riderless, the son of Fiber Sonde made amends by confirming he is a true scrapper.

With unobstructed views of the Inn at Charles Town, the jack-of-all-trades swept by the leaders under rider Marshall Mendez. Bred by John McKee, No Change was my 'best-turned out' horse of the evening.

We all anticipate early season 2-year-old races and this one definitely began with a bang on Friday, June 28. A full field of 10 West Virginia fillies was probably thinking post time was well past their bedtime, when suddenly Poppy Mac launched jockey Antonio Lopez into the atmosphere, setting in motion a chain reaction to action in the paddock. Momentarily stunned, the popular Panamanian remounted only to be again discarded, authenticating why introductory baby races can be chaotic. Composure and preparation remain keys to success, and one trainer that has excelled with his youngsters is Anthony Farrior.

Audible the Play had started once at Laurel Park, giving the daughter of Audible—Mantekilla a distinct advantage. Breaking from her outside post, the James Miller-bred miss quickly established command and handily repelled runnerup Over the Bull. Owned by Richard Burnsworth and James Miller, the slender framed bay has a mini-dynasty of successful relatives to live up to.

There must have been some consternation in the McKee camp when Direct the Cat appeared in the entries on Thursday, July 4. It had just been two weeks since her electrifying 2024 unveiling, and many old school racing purists who subscribe to the 'Bounce Theory' saw the potential for a sub-par effort. What they got was a fireworks display that primed our handicapping juices, while eliciting an aura of invincibility. Call me crazy, but for comparisons, last year's winner of the Charles Town Oaks (Vahva), ran 7 furlongs in 1:25.01. Direct the Cat won by 15 lengths, stopping the clock in 1:24.88.

You'll never confuse West Virginia with New York, but to hear NYRA analysts Maggie Wolfendale and Richard Migliore glowingly reference Coastal Mission, prior to the Grade 2 John Nerud Stakes July 6, gave a prideful boost to the 35th state in the union. We may be ranked 49th in median household income, but the local breeding/racing industry validates that love of horses can be turned into a sustainable business.

Jeff and Susan Runco's Coastal Mission is the WVTBA celebrity ambassador for his consecutive graded second-place efforts. Wherever he sports the blue and white Coleswood silks next, Coastal Mission will handle himself with decorum, while his working class constitution defines his place of origin.

A popular stallion has hundreds of opportunities to sire a wiz kid, while a broodmare only a handful. During back-to-back dog days in July, Romantic Cork watched her 2, 3 and 4-year-old sons grace the Charles Town winner's circle. Dadsnumbronehelpr, a full brother to Jubawithatwist, Teachintherelease (Windsor Castle—Romantic Cork) and Jubawithatwist, winner of the Robert Leavitt Memorial, verified her progeny's skillfulness across any distance or class spectrum.

West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association

P.O. Box 626, Charles Town, WV 25414
Phone: (304) 728-6868
Fax: (304) 724-7870
www.wvtba.com
Office location:
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Chasing
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Teamwork makes the dreamwork

By Betsy Burke Parker

Dan Baker grew up in the Finger Lakes region of New York state, his closest frame of steeplechase reference being the Genesee Valley races south of Rochester. His father was a builder, not deeply involved with horses, but Baker did ride as a child.

He may not have been a horse kid, but he was a farm kid. On the family land, he "learned to do all sorts of things," useful things that ended up serving him through the decades, Baker recalls, "like tearing an engine down and rebuilding it, putting up fence, painting barns.

"My policy was always if someone asked me if I could do something, I'd say yes.

"Then I'd figure out how to do it.

"I never liked to say no, and that's always served me well."

He studied history at Hobart College and earned his teachers' certificate, but Baker had a classic case of post-university, 1970s wanderlust.

He took a gap year after school, loading up his Econoline van with hand tools and woodworking equipment so he could take jobs as he toured the nation in his version of the iconic, early '70s walkabout. "I had longer hair then," Baker recalls the adventure with a laugh. "And a beard. It was a different time."

A late winter blizzard changed the course of his life.

Baker had stopped in Steamboat Springs, Colorado to ski a few days, and when he got trapped there longer than he expected by a surprise blizzard, he settled in, found a job and got the golden opportunity to meet his

Mark Beecher left andDan Baker right accept the 2022 Grand National trophy, won by Holwood Stable's Road to Oz
(©Douglas Lees)

future wife, Pat Tate, a Vassar grad and Baltimore native who was doing her own ski bum-gap year stint.

It was magical, Baker recalls, only natural that they took the relationship back east after the ski season.

One of their first Maryland outings as a couple was the 1974 Maryland Hunt Cup.

It was Pat's home meet, and the Tate family always attended.

Dan Baker was impressed, and that Maryland Hunt Cup left a huge impression on the young Baker.

"In those days, it was more like Woodstock," Baker recalls, remembering the raucous crowd, bonfires, hillside parties veering almost out of control. The Hunt Cup committee has since, he stresses, reeled it in. "But it's always been a lot of fun. I've only missed two Hunt Cups in the past 49 years."

Attending the race – Paddy Neilson won on Burnmac – planted the kernel of an idea in Dan Baker's head, a goal – though he acknowledges that he recognized how hard it would be to break into the world of steeplechase without having been born into it.

There was a brief delay in their steeplechase trajectory when, after they married in 1975 and settled in the Baltimore area, Dan Baker moved to England for a year, taking over an international project for father-in-law Bob Tate's raised flooring company, tasked with setting up a modular system for computer and electric wires in an office building for Lloyd's of London in England.

When they got back to Baltimore, the Bakers hunted with the Green Spring Valley Hounds and a farmers pack in the same territory, Mt. Carmel. Their first farm was next door to historic Sagamore in Glyndon (ancestral home of champion Native Dancer.)

They moved when a call to protect some imperiled land at the center of hunt country lured the Bakers to Upperco.

Conservationist/foxhunters had told Baker about three contiguous parcels located between Shawan Downs, the Grand National course, the Hunt Cup course and My Lady's Manor. They were marked for as many as 11 subdivisions, something Baker says would have ruined a big piece of the territory.

Baker purchased the land and set about developing the 170 acres into a working farm.

Holwood got its name after Baker's first - sarcastic - choice fell flat. "I'd bought the

land and was pulling together my plans. (Former huntsman for Mt. Carmel) Carl Shaffer was thrilled the land was protected.

"The hunt wanted to buy us a sign for our new place to thank us, but it put me on the spot about what we're gonna call it.

"I thought about it for about a second, and said how about Baker's Acres.

"I was kidding, but you know Carl (who died in 2010) was a real gruff character. He hated that name – I was joking – and he grumped about it for a while then suggested we look on the deed for something historic."

Baker discovered the property had been part of an original land patent called Holwood. The name suited Baker, and it appeased Shaffer.

Baker was involved deeply in the Holwood project, hearkening back to the "can-do" mien from his youth. He had his hand in almost everything, and what he didn't already know how to do, he figured out how to do. He installed the fencing, designed and put in the landscaping.

He helped his contractor, prominent steeplechase owner-breeder Bob Kinsley, from start to finish, together constructing what Baker calls a classic modern Maryland farmhouse; they designed it to look like it was "always there."

Kinsley died in 2020, but Baker remembers working so intimately with the popular commercial builder and founder of South Branch Equine as his favorite part of the process. "Bob was such a wonderful guy," Baker recalls. "Building this house was a joy, and as happy as we were when it was finished I was almost sorry it was done because it was so great to work with him."

Baker bought and operated another Tate family business, Tate Engineering that Bob Tate's father had established in 1924. Baker ran it for years, then his son, Alec took over a few years ago when his father retired, "again," becoming the fourth generation to run the commercial mechanical supply business.

Start in steeplechase

When the Bakers at last got involved in racing, they decided to start at the start, buying a few broodmares and breeding for the commercial market. They had the land – their old farm on Belmont Avenue, and they enlisted a pro to help – bloodstock agent Don Litz.

But the timing was awful.

They bought in at the exact same time as oil-enriched sheikhs began raiding the American sales to buy bloodstock. Prices started to skyrocket.

The middle of the market fell apart, and the Bakers disbanded their broodmare band a few years later.

Their next foray into racing went much better, something they have learned to appreciate and enjoy to this day. About 20 years ago, Maryland trainer Billy Meister got them involved in jump racing with a useful timber horse, Beseennotheard, then with Maryland Hunt Cup-placed Mr. Liberator. A Maryland-bred son of Awad bred by Hall of Famer Sidney Waters, Jr., Mr. Liberator won his first start for the Bakers – Brandywine in 2008 – then finished fourth in the Grand National timber stake and third in the Hunt Cup.

Baker was sold on steeplechasing, at last fulfilling the vision he'd had at that first Hunt Cup.

"You know we've run some horses on the flat, but jump racing is just …" Baker searches for just the right words. "It's just different. At the flat track, you go, you have to wade your way through a casino to get to the apron. Then you watch your race. It takes about two minutes.

"Then you leave.

"There's nothing else."

At the steeplechase meets, however, like that first Hunt Cup he'd attended way back in 1974, it's more festive, more rural and more friendly. "It's a whole day. I mean, I even go to the races just to watch my friends' horses race if we don't have something running.

"It's fun. That's one of the biggest selling points."

The Bakers have had plenty of success, winning races at Genesee Valley, the Grand National, My Lady's Manor and the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup; they've also won several won several Delaware Valley Point-to-Point Association year-end prizes.

Mark Beecher has trained for the Bakers since 2014, and their shared vision of project management of each of their horses makes the relationship an easy partnership, as much friendship as owner-trainer-client bond, Beecher says.

"I don't want to buy a horse that doesn't have a potential second – third, career," Baker offers. "For me it's really important to deal with horses that have a good brain.

"Mark Beecher's vision is the same.

"Between the two of them, Mark and (wife) Rebecca have the best eye to see what we're looking for. They have a certain type, and they like certain bloodlines."

Quality Choice is by Quality Road, like Baker's Road To Oz that won the Grand National stake last spring. "I love the type," Baker says. "We tease Road To Oz about his big ears, but they're both really nice horses. The Beechers have a way of choosing just the right sort of horse for the job."

Meet the maestro – Beecher was born into the game

Mark Beecher, 38, has methodically risen to prominence on the U.S. steeplechase and flat racing circuit, though this isn't a surprise, given his pedigree.

He grew up on his family's Loughnatousa in Ireland's County Waterford. Father Tim – and the whole clan, are lifelong horsemen and women. Tim has bred, broke, trained, sold and competed show jumpers, show hunters, foxhunters and 'chasers. Five of the six Beecher children are "green coats," having represented – or still are representing – Ireland in international competition. Eldest brother Paul Beecher won the Hickstead Derby on a homebred among other prestigious classics. Brother Tadgh and sisters Diane and Fiona (married to British international showjumper Joe Whitaker) also compete, and Tim and Paul Beecher were joint-masters of the West Waterford Foxhounds on the Cork-Waterford border in southeast Ireland.

As a junior, second-youngest Mark won the European show jumping championship, twice, both times on homebreds.

He rode point-to-points in Ireland and England before shifting his tack to America in 2010 to ride for Maryland-based George Mahoney's Rosbrian Farm. Over nine seasons as a rider, Mark Beecher won two Maryland Hunt Cups, three NSA amateur titles and literally every timber stakes on the U.S. circuit.

Beecher retired after the 2019 season, citing the ongoing fight with weight as the primary motivator.

He and wife Rebecca have spent the last couple years developing their Plum Tree Run property in the Elkridge Harford hunt territory near White Hall, Maryland. They run horses under their stable name, Port Lairge, on the flat and over jumps.

Beecher's first winner as a trainer was My Afleet at Tryon, 2017.

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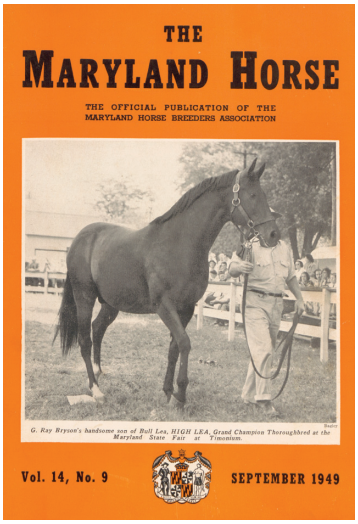
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G. Ray Bryson's handsome son of Bull Lea, HIGH LEA, Grand Champion Thoroughbred at the Maryland State Fair at Timonium.
Vol. 14, No. 9
SEPTEMBER 1949

75 years ago

■ G. Ray Bryson's young stallion High Lea was named grand champion Thoroughbred at the Maryland State Fair at Timonium. Veterinarian Dr. Charles Baker of Montreal, an all-around horseman who judged many of the classes, considered "this slashing fine brown son of Bull Lea the outstanding top."

The fair also brought in equitation judges General and Mrs. C.B. Lyman, who did "a great job of judging and discussing each class with the 75 [young] riders who participated in the show."

■ Cited as the top feature of the country's fall racing season for 2-year-old fillies, the 1949 Selima Stakes looked to settle the divisional championship. With three stakes wins each, Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt's Bed o' Roses and Robert M. Wood's High Frequency were strong contenders for the title. William duPont Jr.'s Foxcatcher Farm led the nominations with seven.

Not only did the win by future Hall of Famer Bed o' Roses solidify her championship, the race showcased two future elite broodmares, War Admiral's daughters Striking and Busanda, the second and third-place finishers.

■ Popular author/artist C.W. Anderson saw the publication of his latest portfolio of sketches, entitled *Post Parade*. Published by Harper and Brothers, the set of 15 plates, some 12 by 16 inches, sold for $4. In addition to paddock and stable scenes, among the equine celebrity images "suitable for framing" were Man o' War, Greyhound, Equipoise and Citation.

■ The Directors of the National Association of Thoroughbred Clubs met in Lexington, Ky., to lay the groundwork for a "strong and representative breeders organization." Seventeen men, representing 10 states, attended. Among the guest organizations were the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, Virginia Horsemen's Association and Virginia Thoroughbred Club.

During the directors' meeting it was stated that "our biggest and most important problem is to improve the Thoroughbred industry's legislative and public relations. If this is not done we may not have any other problems to worry about."

25 years ago

■ Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's Eastern Fall Yearling sale extended to three days due to the large number entered – 756 – compared to 601 in 1998 and 638 in 1997.

The sale numbers reached a zenith in 2006, when 1,053 horses were catalogued over three days, with 658 selling.

■ The Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association named NFL Hall of Famer Sam Huff its inaugural Owner of the Year for the Mid-Atlantic region. Huff and partner Carol Holden operated Sporting Life Stable in Middleburg, Va. In addition to campaigning multiple stakes winner Bursting Forth, Huff was founder/president of the West Virginia Breeders Classics.

The award recognizes contributions made by Thoroughbred owners in five major North American regions.

■ Frank Stronach's Tap to Music won the $500,000 Delaware Handicap-G3, giving trainer Joe Orseno the richest win of his career. He was at one time one of Delaware Park's most active claiming trainers.

Later that year Orseno sent out Perfect Sting to win the $500,000 Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup Stakes-G1. The next year he won the Preakness-G1 with Red Bullet and two Breeders' Cup races – the Juvenile with Macho Uno, and Filly & Mare Turf with Perfect Sting.

■ Monmouth hosted jumpers as part of a promotion in July. The steeplechase concept returned to Monmouth because of tradition. "It's for marketing," said Bob Kulina, the track's vice-president of racing. "You don't generate the purse dollars [with wagering handle], or at least we don't."

Trainer Janet Elliot sent out Greg Hawkins' Campanile to win the $50,000 Midsummer Hurdle Handicap-G2. Among the runners was Ninepins (GB), who won Monmouth's last steeplechase in 1992. He wound up third.

■ Dale Baird became the first Thoroughbred trainer to saddle 8,000 winners when he hit the mark in July at Mountaineer Park. The 64-year-old horseman, based at the West Virginia track (formerly Waterford Park) since the 1960s, was also the first to reach the 6,000 and 7,000-win milestones.

Baird was the winningest trainer in history, with 9,445 wins, and still active when he died at age 72 in an automobile accident in late December 2007. He had more than 125 wins a year for 39 consecutive years, topped by 349 in 1981.

■ The top-priced Mid-Atlantic-bred at the Keeneland July sale was a Danzig colt out of multiple Grade 1 winner Strategic Maneuver, born in Pennsylvania and consigned by Eaton Sales agent for breeder Betty Moran, who sold for $1.15 million to Demi O'Byrne. Moran was also the breeder of a Kentucky-bred Gone West colt bought by B. Wayne Hughes and The Thoroughbred Corp. for $2.5 million, the third-highest price of the sale.

The Danzig colt, named Ishiguru, was a group winner in Ireland at 3 and earned $115,032 in nine starts.

50 years ago

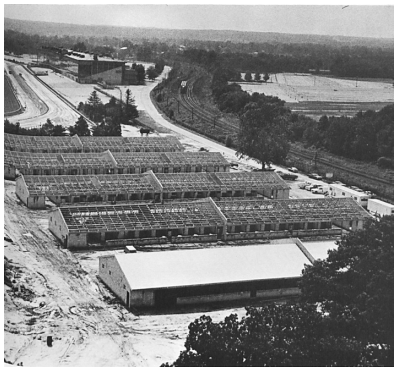
■ Two young men who attended college after graduating from McDonough School saddled winners on the same day at Timonium. Ross Peddicord and Tim Boyce, both in their 20s, intended to make a career with horses.

Peddicord had a job as an advertising manager of the *Horsemen's Journal* and left to go to the track, first as a groom and then a trainer. Four years earlier, the then-21-year-old college student won the Thoroughbred Racing Association's award for the best magazine article of the year. His reason to quit writing: "I don't really like to write. I find writing to be a hard and burdensome job. I'd much rather be doing something physical like I am right now."

Boyce, the 21-year-old son of trainer L. Gittings Boyce, had been attending Johns Hopkins University, majoring in science, when he decided to leave. "Horses and race tracks have always been a big thing with me," he said. "I figure my life has been like a figure eight. I've wandered around on the circles of the eight, but right there in the middle are horses, and it's always to them and the middle of the eight that I keep returning."

Both have had long careers in the industry, not as trainers. For many years Boyce was a sales director for Fasig-Tipton and the Texas Thoroughbred Association. Peddicord went back to writing, covering racing for the Baltimore Sun *and as a freelancer. Since 2010, he's been the executive director of the Maryland Horse Industry Board.*

■ Laurel general manager Frank J. Brady surveyed progress on the construction of a $600,000 barn complex on the Maryland track's backstretch. Five 30-stall concrete-block barns, with underground wiring and a new drainage system, replaced the six oldest barns, which had been torn down. Fifty stalls were lost in the process, bringing the total capacity down to 1,060.



■ Lord Gaylord, a 4-year-old winning son of Sir Gaylord owned by J. Louis Reynolds, was slated to stand his first season at Mr. and Mrs. J.W.Y. Martin Jr.'s Worthington Farm on a private contract basis.

Lord Gaylord soared to national prominence when his son Lord Avie (from his third crop) earned an Eclipse Award as champion 2-year-old colt of 1980. He stood his entire career at Worthington Farm, where he died a pensioner at age 28 in 1998.

■ The executive committee of the Maryland State Fair and Agricultural Society cleared the way for night racing at Timonium. John D. Worthington III, president of the group which controlled the fair and racing at Timonium, disclosed that the committee had accelerated its original plans from 1976 to 1975.

However, editor Snowden Carter noted that position was likely to change. "The board made its statement on night racing early in the [1974] meeting when it was expected that a mutuel handle daily average $550,000 would be attained. But in actual fact the meeting closed with an average of approximately $520,000. Gaining less money to work with than it had anticipated, the board will now vote against the installation of lights."

10 years ago

■ Bayern, who caught the eye of Virginia resident Kaleem Shah, his 16-year-old son Arman, and advisors Bob Baffert and Donato Lani at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May 2-year-old sale at Timonium, was a wise purchase at $320,000. A year later, he won Monmouth Park's $1 million Haskell Invitational by 7¼ lengths. His sire, former Kentucky stallion Offlee Wild, wrapped up his second season at Pin Oak Lane Farm in Pennsylvania.

The heart and soul of the Thoroughbred in the region
Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred
BAYERN
Star Turn
Baffert's Bayern rules Haskell
for Pennsylvania sire Offlee Wild
Belle Gallantey wins Del 'Cap • Regional sires find G1 glory • Meet Maryland racing's filmmaker

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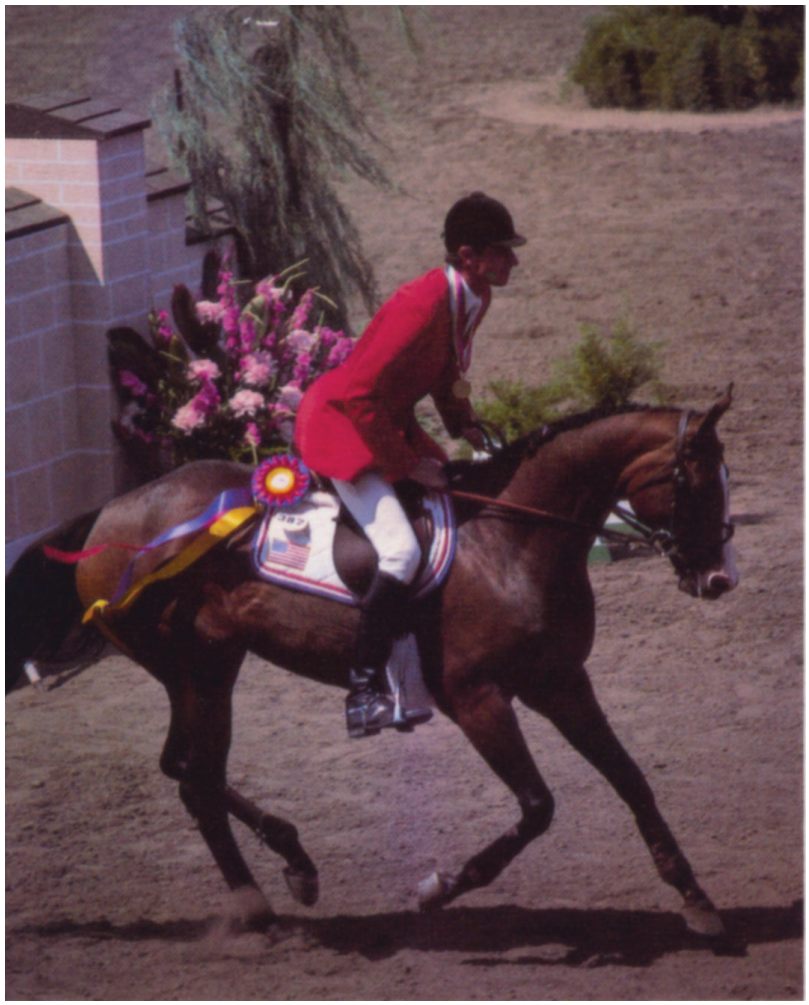
■ In recording his third win in the Grade 3, $200,000 Parx Dash, King Leatherbury's Ben's Cat surpassed $2 million in earnings. The $120,000 brought the 8-year-old Maryland-bred's total to $2,105,990. On the same day (July 12), Ed Stanco's Pennsylvania-bred homebred Princess of Sylmar passed the $2 million mark with a second in the $750,000 Delaware Handicap-G1, in which she was upset by Belle Gallantey.

■ Six months after the untimely passing of her father, future Hall of Fame trainer Tom Voss, trainer Elizabeth Voss had her first Grade 1 win at Saratoga with Makari (GB) in the $100,000 A.P. Smithwick Memorial steeplechase. The winner was piloted by Irish jump jockey Jack Doyle, in only his second American ride.

■ Maryland-bred Gallorette was honored with a plaque on the Hoofprints Walk of Fame at Saratoga Race Course, dedicated to recognize stars of the turf which garnered special success at the New York track. Among Gallorette's career highlights was a victory in the 1948 Whitney Handicap.

Created in 2013 to mark the 150th year of racing at Saratoga Race Course, the project's supporters included Marylou Whitney and John Hendrickson. Gallorette was one of 40 horses honored.



Maryland-bred Olympic star

Forty years ago, Joe Fargis and Maryland-bred Touch of Class won Olympic gold medals in individual and team show jumping at the 1984 Games in California. Originally named Stillaspill, the daughter of Yankee Lad and the Cornwall mare Kluwall lost all six starts as a racehorse, was sold as a show prospect and renamed. Bred by Jennifer Rowland Small, the mare won a jumpoff to make Olympic history. In an interview afterward, Fargis said, "I'm so happy with the horse and I feel privileged to have been able to ride her. This is the most satisfying thing I've ever done in my life."

Marylander Cappy Jackson was an award-winning staff photographer for *Maryland Horse* magazine from the early 1970s, when the legendary Peter Winants took her under his wing. She donated her equine work to the Maryland Horse Library in 2022 as the Cappy Jackson Collection, now part of the Library's Photographer Archiving Project.

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